

SLINGSHOT

Issue #59

Harvest, 1997

Berkeley, California



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5th Avenue Community Resists Port of Oakland Land Grab



by Red Herring

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Private Prisons: Corporations Cash in on Crime

by PB Floyd

The private prison industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the U.S. This year it has set its sights on California. In just ten years, the industry has grown thirty fold, from owning 3,122 prison beds in 1987 to owning 85,201 at the end of 1996. It has tripped in size just since 1993. Private prisons will take in \$1 billion this year. With California's prisons



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While private prison corporations sell themselves as a "cheap" alternative to public imprisonment, their real function is to reap profits while frustrating public participation in the continuing incarceration boom. There is plenty of evidence showing

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5th Avenue Community Resists Port of Oakland Land Grab



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A rag-tag group of artists and small businesses on Oakland's Fifth Avenue waterfront has battled the powerful Port of Oakland to a standstill and possibly struck a fatal blow against a harebrained scheme to bring an International Expo center to the Oakland waterfront. Back in March of this year folks in Oakland's Fifth Ave. waterfront found their neighborhood the subject of a front page article in the Oakland Tribune, complete with artist's conception type drawing of a new grand plan for the waterfront—only the buildings that house their studios and businesses weren't there.

The neighborhood is located in the middle of roughly five miles of waterfront known as the Oakland Estuary (from the foot of MLK to the airport) that has been changing with the advent of containerized shipping and the collapse of Oakland's industrial base. Planning efforts for the area began in 1993 when the League of Women Voters published a paper calling for a co-ordinated planning effort, stressing the need for increased connection with the nearby flatlands neighborhoods and constructive re-uses for abandoned waterfront land. In 1996 the Port and the city jointly hired the ROMA group of San

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With California's prisons bursting at the seams with non-violent offenders, victimless criminals, and geriatric cases, the major corporations in the private prison biz seem set to make millions.

In late July, Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), the largest private prison company in the United States, announced plans to build a \$100 million, 2,000 bed prison in the Mojave Desert town of California City. CCA has no contract with the state to fill the prison, but is building the prison on speculation: "Build it and they will come" according to CCA supporter and state senator Richard Polanco of Los Angeles. David Myers, president of CCA, boasts that CCA has



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While private prison corporations sell themselves as a "cheap" alternative to public imprisonment, their real function is to reap profits while frustrating public participation in the continuing incarceration boom. There is plenty of evidence showing that private prisons

are actually more expensive than public prisons and that any alleged "savings" that do exist come from the fact that private prisons are contracted to hold low risk, easy to handle prisoners.

Private prisons aren't cheaper

The 1,450 inmates already in 5 California private prisons are all minimum security, including many women and many low risk inmates in drug rehab. Rod Blonien, Sacramento lobbyist for Wackenhut Corrections Corp., the second largest private prison company in the US, predicts the state

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Playing with the Stuff of Life:

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The Fifth Ave. waterfront is home to about 100 artists and small arts and crafts related businesses, many of whom have been on that street for fifteen years or longer. The area is a bright spot of authentic urban fabric in the midst of an otherwise neglected stretch of waterfront. Painters and sculptors co-exist with a steel fabricator and a foundry, and self-employed picture framers, architects, and musical instrument makers ply their trades. The larger enterprises on the street frequently provide flexible, well paying industrial arts jobs to the artists in the area. There is an elaborate network of tool and resource sharing, and lots of hanging out on the street and courtyards.

Artists and small business owners are notoriously difficult to organize and only a few folks on Fifth Ave. had any community organizing or political experience, but the neighborhood quickly pulled together a co-ordinated lobbying and publicity effort. A loose neighborhood organization "The Fifth Ave. Waterfront Alliance" was formed and weekly community meetings were held where strategies were developed and tasks divided. The group had meetings with city council

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Playing with the Stuff of Life: Genetic engineering trades global safety & biodiversity for profit

by Soula

The genetic engineering industry, assisted by the US government, has been making moves that will soon put the fate (and the currency) of the world in their hands. Patented engineered crops have been pushed into the market with no responsible testing on humans as to allergens or long-term effects, and no regard for the consequences to the ecosystem when they "escape" and spread.

These crops will quickly boost the income of the already money-bloated chemical/agribusiness/biotech industry by at least 4-5 times. With this much money at stake, the corporate sharks are in a feeding frenzy of such intensity that any thoughts of caution, not to mention ethics, must be quickly suppressed. No expense is being spared to lay the groundwork and to alter the public's opinion of

the biotechnology industry. One of many examples of its influence is the enactment of laws that enable private entities to apply for patents on research that was largely funded by the government.

The World's Breadbasket: Monsanto?

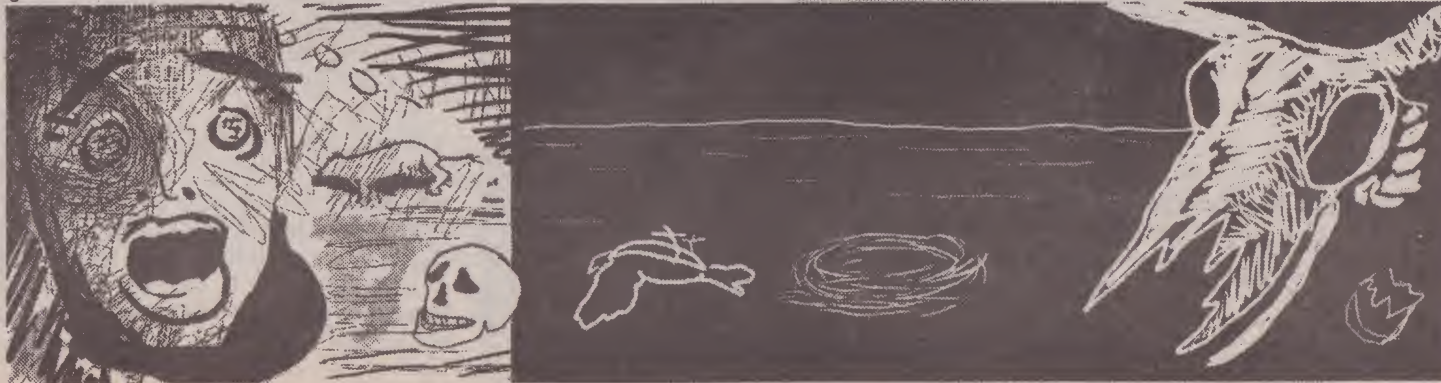
Chemical giant Monsanto stands as a prime example of this blatant bad behavior. Their executives regularly cycle in and out of top positions in the FDA. Consequently the FDA enacts whatever policies will further Monsanto's interests. In 1992, over 150 FDA officials owned stock in the drug/biotech companies they regulated.

Monsanto's biggest cash-cow at \$1.5 billion

per year has been the widely used herbicide Roundup. The use of Roundup is the third most commonly reported cause of illness among agricultural workers in California; for landscape maintenance workers, it ranks highest. It also destroys soil life and leaves residues that show up in food planted a year after the soil was sprayed.

Use of Roundup was previously limited to killing weeds around the borders of cropland. However, Monsanto is betting the farm on its new line of "Roundup Ready" crops, which are specifically engineered to withstand massive dosing with Roundup. In fact, a year's supply of Roundup is sold as a package with the seeds—for which farmers must sign a contract promising not to sell or give away any

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SLINGSHOT

Slingshot is a quarterly, independent, radical newspaper published in the East Bay since 1988.

The Slingshot collective has been in a state of flux since last issue. Although a number of members have moved or are on extended leaves, Slingshot managed to locate a number of wonderful new folks. Based on this new energy, we're producing a 20 page issue this time, 4 pages longer than usual. Even with 20 pages, we still had to cut worthwhile articles.

We're still looking for writers, artists, photographers, editors, distributors and fundraisers to make the paper even better.

After years of talking about it, Slingshot is finally going to have a web page. It is under construction and will soon have articles from back issues plus articles we had to cut for space reasons. Check it out. (Address below.)

Slingshot accepts unsolicited articles. Please send a disk if you can. We can't print everything we get, nor would we want to. We also accept letters, art and photographs. We *do not* accept poetry.

As always, your generous donations are needed to keep us going. About \$20 per person is great.

Editorial decisions about Slingshot are made by the Slingshot collective. Articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of everyone in Slingshot. We welcome debate, discussion and criticism.

Cover art by William. Thanks to Jennifer, Soula and William for original art.

Slingshot Volunteer Meeting

Volunteers interested in getting involved in Slingshot can meet with us on November 18, 1997 at 7 p.m. at the Downtown Berkeley Public Library, 3rd floor Story Room.

Article Deadline & Next Issue date

The projected deadline for Issue #60 is January 20 1998. Issue #60 is expected to be out on February 3 1998.

Printed: September 22, 1997

LETTERS to SLINGSHOT



A shorter work-week in Ecotopia

Dear Slingshot:

With regard to a critique of my recently published articles, (see letters, issue #58) Jan Lundberg is to be commended for understanding that a saner society of the future would not work as many hours as we do at present. In spite of being on the right track in that regard, Lundberg claimed that I 'believe in work, productivity, and everyone having plenty of stuff', but the extent of my belief about productivity is that it is constantly increasing. The only condition under which I could be tempted to become a religious believer in productivity would be if constant gains were automatically compensated by instant reductions in the amount of time that we work, precisely in order to prevent over-exploitation of natural resources and the environment, exacerbation of class differences, explosive population growth,



and to enable workers' control and increasing freedom for producers of useful commodities and services.

mainly to the rich. 98% of new wealth accrues to the upper 20%, while the lower 80% mindlessly 'race each other to the bottom' for bits of their measly 2% class share.

Billions of people all over the world feel as if no one gives a damn about anyone but themselves, because everyone is allowed to compete for scarce jobs. Remove this state of desolation by adopting reasonable measures to cut down on wasteful competition for jobs, and people will begin to give a damn, not only about themselves, but about everything else on the planet as well.

—Ken Ellis

What would Freud have to say?

What's happening Slingshot collective:

Whenever I whip out my 1997 Slingshot Organizer, I get looks of envy from passersby. Sooo, to rid myself from wanton glaring and lecherous leers, except when I want to impress my coworkers with obvious (I pull out my 1997 Slingshot) organization capabilities, I want as many of those dang handy organizers as you can send.

Keep on lovin' Martin Johnston

Refuse the California Police State

Dear Slingshot:

I just moved here. I went to the DMV to try to transfer my license from New York State to the Police State. First I was told that I needed a birth certificate. I called up my Dad and asked him to go to the town hall in Massachusetts (where he still lives) and get a copy of the record. He asked why,

or even parking ticket in my 15 years as a licensed driver). I jumped through the appropriate hoops, and got to the next to the last window, right before they are to take your photograph. Here is the sign "Fingerprinting Mandatory". What the fuck?

I saw a whole line of dutiful citizens voluntarily lining up for their thumb printing. I took my completed application and told the woman at the desk I found it offensive they first wanted my birth certificate (to prove I was a citizen), but I sure as hell wasn't giving them my finger prints. She was surprised to hear me, a non-threatening white female tell her I found this policy offensive. I said I'd have to think about it before I finished the process.

I asked the flip question "how long before you start taking people's blood?" "Don't laugh," she said "we might just start doing it." That made it very easy for me to make up my mind. I took my old trusty NY drivers license from the counter, and all my records and left the premises. I almost thought someone was going to prevent me from illegally leaving the building or something.

REFUSE to succumb to the Police State. I've been in CA for less than one month, and have had to refuse finger printing twice already, once at the DMV, once at my teaching job which also asked me to sign a loyalty oath. Pay attention to when your personal freedoms get slowly taken away. Soon you might forget you ever deserved them.

—Donna

Radio Free Allston Rocks Boston

Dear Slingshot

I've been a subscriber to Slingshot for about 5 years, I think, and it's been well worth it. I am sending in my renewal soon (as soon as I get

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Volume 1, Number 59 • Circulation: 9,000

Slingshot Newspaper

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Bulk copies are available for 50 cents per issue for 5 or more copies.

Its almost 1998 . . .

Time to get your 1998

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and to enable workers' control and increasing freedom for producers of useful commodities and services.

In spite of my written record on these issues, I was amazed to find myself accused of 'nudging people in a dangerous direction', as though proceeding in the direction of less work, which we both believe in, were not good enough a reason for us to collaborate.

Fixing our problems with a new economic system to be known as 'bioregional-based subsistence' sounded wonderful to me, but, if the new economic system will be at all based upon changing property relations, there may be a hard row to hoe. If it took a Civil War to abolish as unpopular a form of property ownership as slavery, then enlisting the services of everyone whom Lundberg knows, or would like to know, may not suffice to change ownership of much else, so precious are the principles and privileges of private property to 'the man on the street'.

Though exploiters would certainly like to see work-time maximized, the amount that we allow one another to work is not as absolute a principle as is property ownership. Until we adopt the philosophy that 'too much work for me means too little work for my brothers and sisters', we will remain in the grips of a dog-eat-dog philosophy of cutthroat competition that may have enabled societies of the past to prosper and triumph, but has since been superannuated by unprecedented levels of productivity, the result of which goes

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A week later I got the certified copy of the record of my distinguished birth. Sure enough, my birthday really was October 7. I then drove to the DMV (mind you, I've never had an accident or speeding ticket,

surprised to hear me, a non-threatening white female tell her I found this policy offensive. I said I'd have to think about it before I finished the process.

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Anyway, I wanted to tell you about our pirate/community radio station here in Boston. It's called Radio Free Allston, and we broadcast four days a week, from 5 pm to 1 am at 106.1 fm. Our

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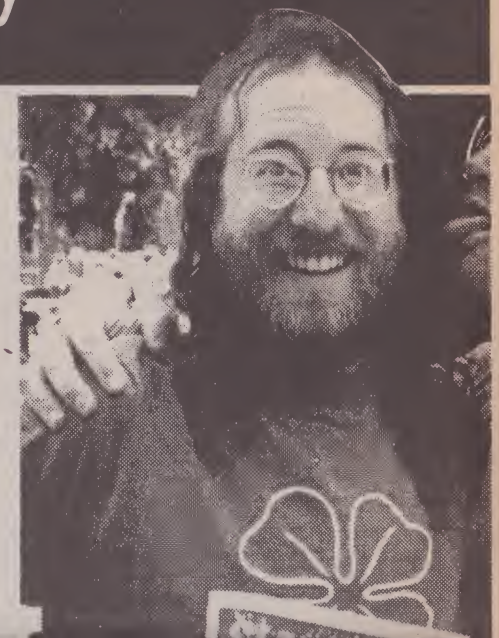
Ian Ray

1964-1997

Ian Ray, an early member of *Slingshot* and a Berkeley activist in the late 1980s, died on August 24. He was 33 years old.

Ian was remarkable both for his commitment to radical political movements and for the way he lived his life. In the late 80s he organized the Berkeley chapter of the Rainforest Action Network. He was arrested repeatedly protesting militarism, injustice and environmental destruction. Ian always pushed toward greater awareness of environmental issues at a time when those issues seemed less prominent.

After moving to Berkeley in 1986 to attend UC Berkeley, he almost immediately moved to the fringes of Southside wingnut culture. Ian had such a creative mind and liberated spirit that the confines of hierarchical, industrial education couldn't hold him. He turned not only



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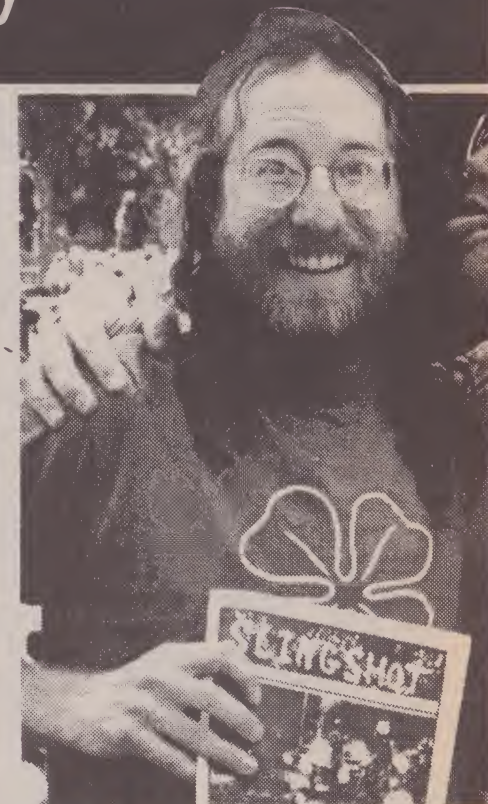
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After moving to Berkeley in 1986 to attend UC Berkeley, he almost immediately moved to the fringes of Southside wingnut culture. Ian had such a creative mind and liberated spirit that the confines of hierarchical, industrial education couldn't hold him. He turned not only his dorm room, but his entire floor in the uptight dorm, into a musical, pharmacological and artistic experiment.

Ian later moved to Barrington Hall, a large and extremely weird University cooperative in South Berkeley. It is hard to explain to someone who never saw Barrington what it was all about. It was a "liberated zone" within puritan America. Every surface in Barrington was covered with psychedelic murals and layer upon layer of graffiti. The graffiti wasn't just tags--it contained long debates about revolution, religion, art, everything. Ian's handwriting was often visible in the long graffiti debates, which would go on for years.

Most of the people in Barrington were outside of mainstream culture in one way or another. Often, residents were outside the mainstream in almost every way. Ian became part of an informal Nudity Liberation Front at Barrington and would often go entire days without clothes. If you visited him at Barrington, you might find him coming out of the shower. After drying off, he would just walk away and go about his business.



When conservative coop officials campaigned to shut Barrington down in 1989-90, Ian was in the forefront of unsuccessful efforts to save it. Ultimately he was one of the squatters who stayed until police moved in.

Ian was a drummer who loved music. He studied bugs (entomology) at UC Berkeley. He dropped out of school because he loved bugs so much: he had to kill bugs for his classes and after a while, he just couldn't do it anymore.

He wrote numerous articles for *Slingshot*, some under the pen-name Dinsdale Piranha. He was one of 4 *Slingshot*ers featured naked on the back of issue #28. He loved being silly and he loved life, living things and being alive. He hugged everyone he met. He will be missed and remembered. After years of struggling against illness, Ian took his own life.

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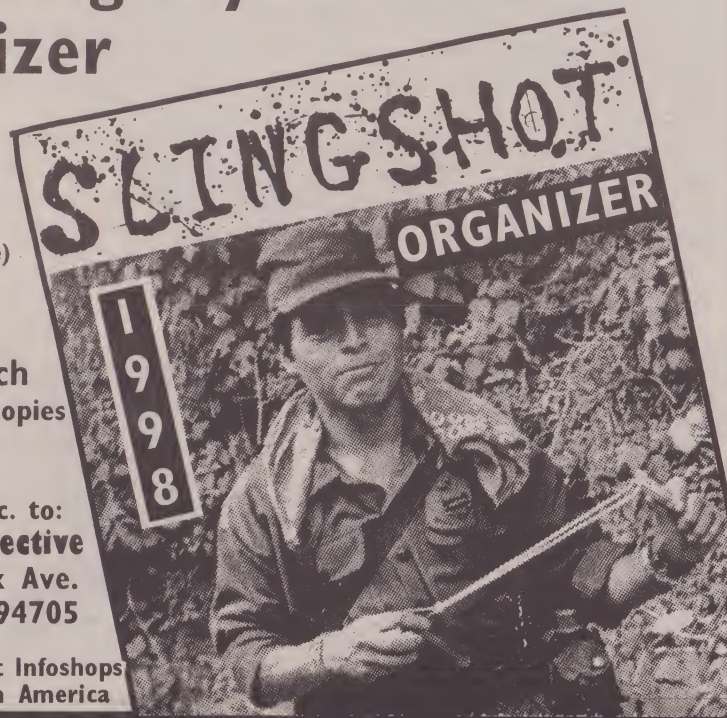
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Disabled Activists Blockade Greyhound Station

by Blane N. Beckwith

Forty members of American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today (ADAPT), trapped eight Greyhound buses at San Francisco's Transbay Terminal on August 8. Protesters from the disability rights organization blockaded the station for nearly three hours, trapping the buses by blocking their entrance and exit with their wheelchairs. Greyhound was forced to offload two buses below the station on Folsom St. After the CHP arrested eight protesters, Greyhound was finally able to resume normal operations. This action was done in solidarity with forty-three other actions, staged across the nation by ADAPT against Greyhound.

The action was to protest Greyhound's refusal to equip its buses with lifts and make its facilities accessible for persons with disabilities, as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For years ADAPT has been pressuring Greyhound and other over-the-road bus (OTRB) lines to comply with the ADA in the same way as municipal buses, such as AC Transit and Muni. Beginning in 1988, ADAPT staged a two-year series of protests and "freedom rides" against not only Greyhound, but the American Bus Association (ABA) and the United Bus Operators of America (UBOA), the two lobby groups representing OTRBs. Through very powerful lobbying efforts, they convinced Congress and the Department of Transportation (DOT) that putting lifts on their buses was "too hard." Both Congress and DOT gave Greyhound until 1996 to comply after the ADA regulations were written in 1990.

Congress formed a committee, composed of bus industry people, disability advocates, and bureaucrats, to study the best means to accommodate disabled people. In 1993 they

concluded OTRBs must provide access to disabled riders. They also found lifts to be the easiest, safest, and most cost-effective way to do it, countering Greyhound's claim. Despite these findings, DOT delayed drafting any new regulations forcing Greyhound to install lifts. DOT also allowed Greyhound to sneak an amendment into the Federal Highway Act not requiring them to buy lift-equipped buses until two years after any regulations came out.

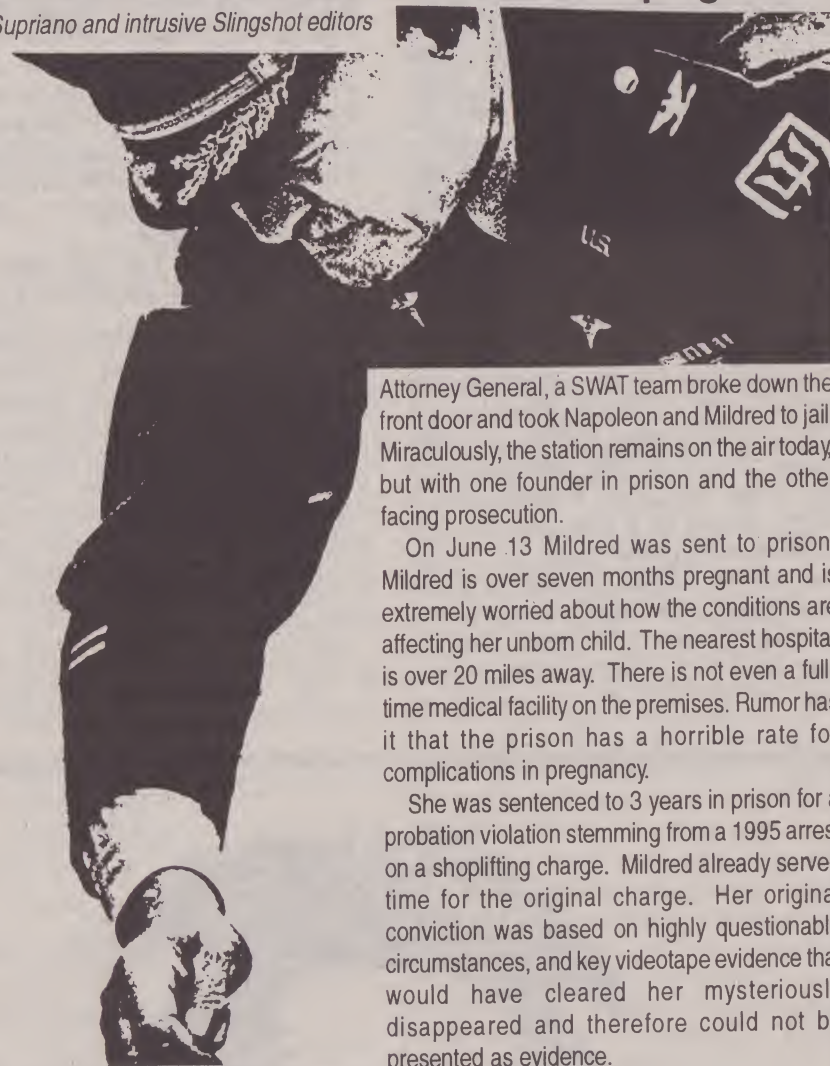
This entire issue has become especially time-critical. Greyhound is now hurriedly replacing its entire fleet with inaccessible buses, in an underhanded attempt to beat any new regulations. These new regulations would not be retroactive to cover any new or existing buses. Since OTRBs have an operational lifetime of twenty years, Greyhound might not be accessible until the next century. Persons with disabilities are unwilling to have their rights to accessible transportation violated well into the twenty-first century.

Also of concern is the large number of disabled living in rural areas who badly need the type of affordable transportation OTRBs could provide. Sixty-eight million (or 23%) of the nation's population live in rural areas. Fifteen million (22%) of these are disabled. Since disabled people are among the nation's most impoverished citizens, affordable transportation is crucial. This is especially true for rural disabled who often are scattered and without any way to get to medical care, schools, and other activities necessary for a full, equal life.

FREE MILDRED JONES!!!

Black Liberation Radio activist is 8 months pregnant!

by Sue Supriano and intrusive Slingshot editors



Attorney General, a SWAT team broke down the front door and took Napoleon and Mildred to jail. Miraculously, the station remains on the air today, but with one founder in prison and the other facing prosecution.

On June 13 Mildred was sent to prison. Mildred is over seven months pregnant and is extremely worried about how the conditions are affecting her unborn child. The nearest hospital is over 20 miles away. There is not even a full-time medical facility on the premises. Rumor has it that the prison has a horrible rate for complications in pregnancy.

She was sentenced to 3 years in prison for a probation violation stemming from a 1995 arrest on a shoplifting charge. Mildred already served time for the original charge. Her original conviction was based on highly questionable circumstances, and key videotape evidence that would have cleared her mysteriously disappeared and therefore could not be presented as evidence.

Mildred Jones, co-founder of Black Liberation Radio (BLR), an unlicensed micropower radio station in Decatur, IL., is currently being held in the Dwight Correctional Facility for Women, a maximum security facility, and risks losing her

Mildred and Napoleon's 2 daughters were taken from them in 1992 and 1993 and are in foster care. The taking of their children by the Department of Child and Family Services seems to be punishment for operating the radio station.

(ADA). For years ADAPT has been pressuring Greyhound and other over-the-road bus (OTRB) lines to comply with the ADA in the same way as municipal buses, such as AC Transit and Muni. Beginning in 1988, ADAPT staged a two-year series of protests and "freedom rides" against not only Greyhound, but the American Bus Association (ABA) and the United Bus Operators of America (UBOA), the two lobby groups representing OTRBs. Through very powerful lobbying efforts, they convinced Congress and the Department of Transportation (DOT) that putting lifts on their buses was "too hard." Both Congress and DOT gave Greyhound until 1996 to comply after the ADA regulations were written in 1990.

Congress formed a committee, composed of bus industry people, disability advocates, and bureaucrats, to study the best means to accommodate disabled people. In 1993 they

are unwilling to have their rights to accessible transportation violated well into the twenty-first century.

Also of concern is the large number of disabled living in rural areas who badly need the type of affordable transportation OTRBs could provide. Sixty-eight million (or 23%) of the nation's population live in rural areas. Fifteen million (22%) of these are disabled. Since disabled people are among the nation's most impoverished citizens, affordable transportation is crucial. This is especially true for rural disabled who often are scattered and without any way to get to medical care, schools, and other activities necessary for a full, equal life.



Mildred Jones, co-founder of Black Liberation Radio (BLR), an unlicensed micropower radio station in Decatur, IL., is currently being held in the Dwight Correctional Facility for Women, a maximum security facility, and risks losing her 3rd child to the State of Illinois if action isn't taken immediately to free her.

Meanwhile, Napoleon Williams, also of BLR, has been charged with eavesdropping, a felony. He recorded conversations he had with workers in the Dept. of Child and Family Services on the radio about having their children returned to them. Napoleon Williams is out on bail now and has not yet been assigned another court date.

Black Liberation Radio, run out of the house of Napoleon Williams and Mildred Jones, has been on the air since 1990 addressing such issues as poverty, unemployment and police brutality. Decatur, a city of 100,000 with four major multinational corporations: Caterpillar, Firestone, Archer Daniels Midland and Staley is located in Macon County which is Klan country and generally extremely racist. Though 16% of Decatur is African American, BLR is the only radio station where music with black artists and black perspectives can be heard. Napoleon Williams and Mildred Jones have endured a long history of harassment by local and state authorities, including arrests on dubious charges, raids and the removal of their children into foster care.

The latest raid on Napoleon & Mildred's house took place May 10 when, at the order of the Illinois

Mildred is over seven months pregnant and is extremely worried about how the conditions are affecting her unborn child. The nearest hospital is over 20 miles away. There is not even a full-time medical facility on the premises. Rumor has it that the prison has a horrible rate for complications in pregnancy.

She was sentenced to 3 years in prison for a probation violation stemming from a 1995 arrest on a shoplifting charge. Mildred already served time for the original charge. Her original conviction was based on highly questionable circumstances, and key videotape evidence that would have cleared her mysteriously disappeared and therefore could not be presented as evidence.

Mildred and Napoleon's 2 daughters were taken from them in 1992 and 1993 and are in foster care. The taking of their children by the Department of Child and Family Services seems to be punishment for operating the radio station. They have another young son living somewhere else so as not to be taken into custody as well. The child Mildred is expecting will be taken if born in prison.

Justice has been hard to find in Macon County. Public pressure would be helpful. Activists need to put a spotlight on their situation nationally so Macon County will know that there's a support system for Napoleon Williams and Mildred Jones and we're watching.

Flood Governor Jim Edgar and Department of Corrections Transfer Coordinator Diane Jockisch, with letters asking for an independent investigation of Mildred's and Napoleon's cases and ask that she AT LEAST be put under house arrest while the case is being investigated. Be sure to mention Mildred's number, B49044 and that she is in the Dwight women's prison. Please let Napoleon or Mildred know that you sent a letter by sending them a note or a copy so they will have a sense of what kind of pressure is being exerted. Funds for expenses should be sent to Napoleon. Make checks out to him with a note that its for BLR.

•Governor Jim Edgar, 207 Statehouse, Springfield, IL 62706.

•Diane Jockisch, 1301 Concordia Court, Box 19277-Admin. Building, Springfield, IL 62706

•Mildred Jones, B49044, P.O. Box 5001, Dwight, IL 60420

NASA Bets Farm on Cassini Probe



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•Napoleon Williams, 629 E. Center St. Decatur, IL 62526, (217) 423-2737

Check out the BLR homepage: <http://burn.ucsd.edu/~blr>

NASA Bets Farm on Cassini Probe

by Donna

When speaking with people about the impending \$3.4 billion Cassini rocket launch scheduled for October 6th from Cape Canaveral, FL, often I get the same reaction, "Better they send 72 pounds of plutonium into space than keep it here on Earth." No one, however, seems to be so interested in the purported mission of the rocket - "an international scientific mission of discovery to Saturn." Welcome the age of interplanetary politics.

Anti-nuclear activists have been mobilized around this issue, and rightly so. If pulverized and inhaled, the plutonium onboard can cause cancer. Cassini's dangerous isotope is primarily plutonium-238, a close cousin to plutonium-239 used in nuclear weapons. Activists are asking NASA what the rush is, because the European

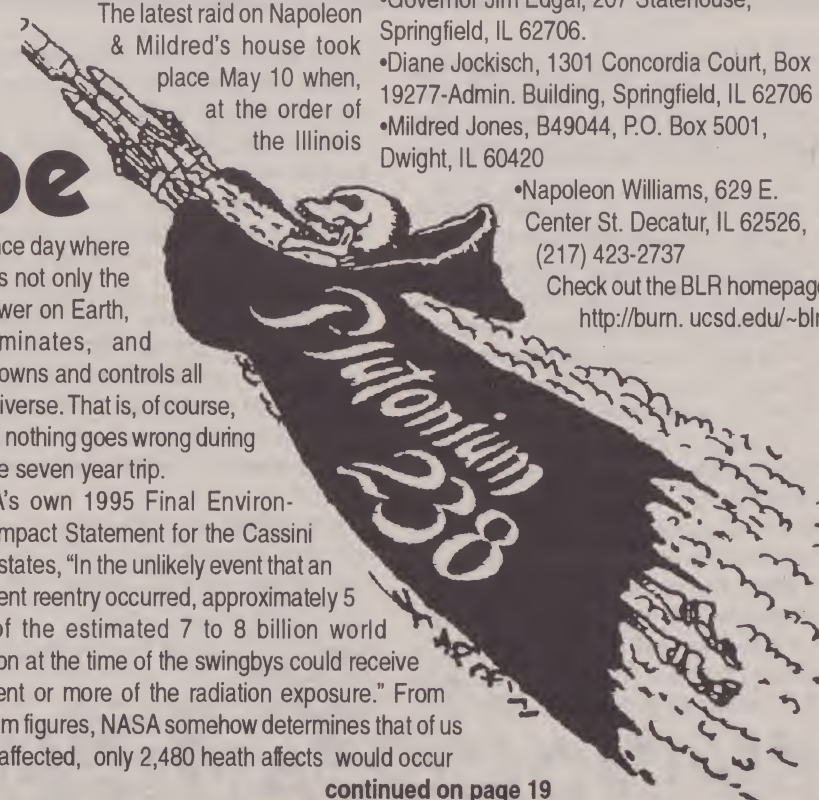
Space Agency claims that, given five years, they could build long life solar cells that would eliminate the need for plutonium. NASA claims this is not possible because of the remoteness of Saturn and its distance from the sun. These solar arrays would use sunlight gathered before Cassini gets too distant from the sun, and would store this electricity for later use in running the probe's computer and communications systems.

The powerful plutonium is NOT being used to propel the craft into deep space. NASA has planned a risky "flyby" maneuver for that, where Cassini will slingshot around the earth on August 16, 1999 by gravity-assist thereby gaining an enormous boost into deep space. Cassini is scheduled to reach Jupiter in December, 2000 and ultimately Saturn in July, 2004 - suspiciously close to American Independence Day this time

dominance day where the US is not only the superpower on Earth, but dominates, and thereby owns and controls all of the universe. That is, of course, provided nothing goes wrong during the entire seven year trip.

NASA's own 1995 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Cassini Mission states, "In the unlikely event that an inadvertent reentry occurred, approximately 5 billion of the estimated 7 to 8 billion world population at the time of the swingbys could receive 99 percent or more of the radiation exposure." From these grim figures, NASA somehow determines that of us 5 billion affected, only 2,480 heath affects would occur

continued on page 19



Canadian Courts Jail Ts'Peten Defenders

by Tristan and PB Floyd

On July 30, after the longest trial in Canadian history, Canadian Government Judge Josephson sentenced 12 indigenous sovereignty activists to prison for defending their sacred land. Although the jury acquitted the activists of the most serious attempted murder charges, they were convicted of lesser charges. The judge handed down stiff sentences including an 8 year prison term for a 66 year old Shaswap elder known as Wolverine, who led the defense of the site. Three others were convicted but spared imprisonment.

The sentences are the culmination of a systematic military/political attack on the British Columbian native activists. In 1989, Shuswap faith keeper Percy Rosette asked a cattle rancher, Lyle James, if he could hold a sundance festival on a small part of a vast cattle ranch near 100 Mile House, BC. James agreed and the sundance was held every year thereafter at a native burial ground and holy place called Ts'Peten (or Gustafsen Lake).

Although a large American cattle company claims it owns Ts'Peten, the ranch is on

across the lake, and eventually surrender while dodging 20,000 bullets. Police repeatedly attacked the defenders and the Canadian press portrayed the defenders as terrorists. Through the whole crisis, the defenders fired 106 bullets while the police shot 77,000, according to police records revealed during the trial. On September 17, 1995, the defenders surrendered.

The trial lasted from July 1996 to May 1997. The judge refused to permit the defenders to introduce evidence showing that the government and the Courts have no jurisdiction over Ts'Peten because it is unceded native land. The trial also revealed numerous instances of police misconduct, many caught on police video tape. The evidence released during the trial indicated that police and government officials participated in a conspiracy to kill the occupants of the Ts'Peten Sundance Camp while smearing them in the press.

Activists are now calling for public pressure to Free the Ts'Peten Defenders. 140 Department of Indian Affairs Band Council



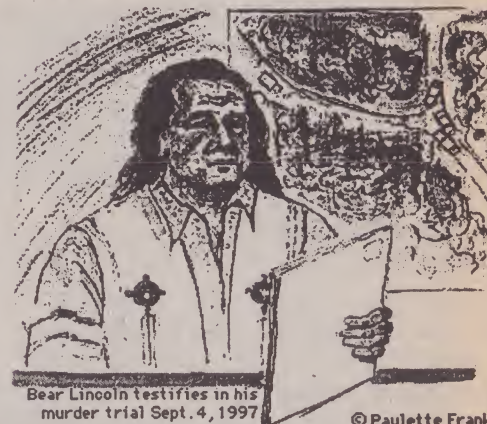
Bear Lincoln's Trial Ends

As *Slingshot* goes to press, a jury in Mendocino county began deliberations that will determine the course of the life of Eugene Bear Lincoln, a Wailacki man from the Round Valley Indian Reservation. In a trial that began on July 29, two years after Bear turned himself in, after being accused in the fatal shooting of a deputy sheriff, the prosecution presented a case rife with contradictions, stinking of a cover-up, and exposing sloppy, if not deliberately shoddy investigation. The defense team, led by well-known and flamboyant political attorney Tony Serra, has presented a strong case, bolstered by Bear's own testimony, standing in sharp contrast to the slick and practiced testimony of cops and expert witnesses. At worst, says the defense, Bear fired his rifle in self defense after being caught in an ambush that took the life of his friend, Leonard Acorn Peters. The police ambush, set up on the crest of a hill on a dark dirt road, was in anticipation of the encounter of a suspect in another shooting, but the trigger-happy cops, confident that they act with impunity on a rural Indian reservation, met the pair walking up the road with a barrage of automatic weapon fire without first identifying themselves as cops. Bear returned fire and fled for his life. Under law, one is permitted to defend oneself, even against cops, when they use unreasonable and excessive force.

The strong defense case notwithstanding, the prosecution managed to get an all-white, pro-death penalty jury, and we've been treated to blatantly pro-prosecution coverage in the county's principal newspaper, the *Santa Rosa*

Press Democrat. They were recently brought into a contempt charge case against the county's chief d.a., when the direct feed from the d.a.'s office became too evident, potentially violating a strict gag order on both the prosecution and the defense.

The trial has garnered support in the northcoast progressive community, as well as interest in the Bay Area as images of Pine Ridge are brought into view, layered onto the horrific genocidal history of Native Americans in northern California.



Bear Lincoln testifies in his murder trial Sept. 4, 1997

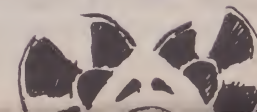
© Paulette Frankl

Native American leaders from other parts of the county, including AIM field organizer Dennis Banks have come out to support Bear, and the Round Valley community has become politicized as never before, as the case becomes symbolic of racist practices on the part of the Mendocino county sheriffs. For information, call the Mendocino Environmental Center, 707-468-1660.

Karen Pickett

Radioactive Art

What markers might be sufficiently ominous or impressive to prevent people from drilling into a nuclear waste dump or otherwise releasing its radioactive burden 10,000 years from



Shuswap faith keeper Percy Rosette asked a cattle rancher, Lyle James, if he could hold a sundance festival on a small part of a vast cattle ranch near 100 Mile House, BC. James agreed and the sundance was held every year thereafter at a native burial ground and holy place called Ts'Peten (or Gustafsen Lake).

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© Paulette Frankl

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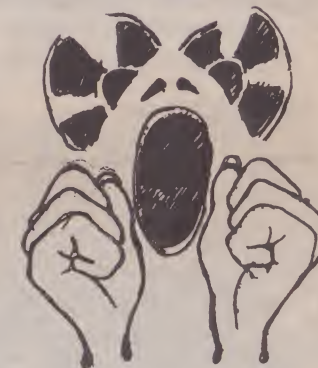
What markers might be sufficiently ominous or impressive to prevent people from drilling into a nuclear waste dump or otherwise releasing its radioactive burden 10,000 years from now?

Specialists estimate that English will have retained as few as 12 percent of its current basic words, and still less of its complex vocabulary. These specialists recommend a "menacing earthworks" design, with the land above the repository to be surrounded by immense, lightning-shaped mounds of earth.

Visitors walking through the earthworks would lose sight of the horizon and experience a loss of connection to any sense of place. In an open central area, there would be a large walk-on world map showing the location of all radioactive waste repositories.

The basic warning: "Do not dig or drill here before 12000 A.D." in seven languages would be flanked by human faces, one denoting horror and the other denoting sickness and nausea.

The experts agreed that exposed site markers must be large enough to withstand centuries of wind and water erosion. They must also resist the tendency of human beings



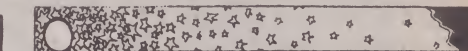
to vandalize or remove pieces of structures. They recommended using materials of little value and in shapes that make them poorly suited for reuse. What do you recommend?

Submit your artwork, or proposals and ensure your art has a half-life of 10,000 years. Still art, video, music, text, installations, whatever you think is appropriate. Enough entries will cause us to have an art show!

Radioactive Art
3124 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94705

Street Theater Action & Skills Festival To Save Headwaters October 3-6 @ Basecamp

Festival to teach activists street theater and nonviolent direct action skills and prepare for



Norma Jean Croy is Free!

After 19 years in prison, Native American lesbian political prisoner Norma Jean Croy is



unceded, unsundered Shuswap traditional territory. Under international law, the absence of a treaty or sale of the land voids the cattle company's land claim against the Shuswap.

As people gathered for the sundance on June 3, 1995, James and 20 cowboys arrived and served a homemade "eviction paper," demanding that the natives leave the area. Rosette and the others refused to leave and called for support. Several who answered the call brought rifles. The sundance was concluded but some activists stayed on the land to press their demands for ownership. Police, meanwhile, surrounded the site and a 31 day standoff began. 18 adult defenders were trapped by 400 police and army troops armed with Armored Personnel Carriers, machine guns and high tech surveillance equipment.

On September 11, a native truck was blown up by a land mine and rammed by an APC. Miraculously, the two occupants were able to survive the blast, run through the forest, swim

Chiefs have signed a petition demanding an inquiry into the "attempted murder against the Indian People" at Ts'Peten.

Meanwhile, government officials, stung by the information released during the trial, are arguing over whether they will conduct a federal or a BC based investigation of the siege. But activists don't believe that either government body can conduct a fair investigation, since they would in essence have to investigate themselves. Activists are calling for an independent, impartial, international third party to investigate the siege and the trial.

Letters demanding a real investigation can be sent to:

Prime Minister Jean Chretien,
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A6, Canada.

For more information, contact:
Settlers in Support of Indigenous Sovereignty
PO Box 8673
Victoria, BC, Canada, V8X 3S2.

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The Case of Leonard Peltier



\$3 for 1-5, \$2 for 6 or more

NWLPSN
5201 Capitol Blvd
Suite 119
Tumwater, WA 98501



It is time we all faced the truth of the hardships ahead of us. It is time to investigate the one form of genocide which threatens us all. It is the environmental and human destruction that American industrial greed is bringing not only to Indian Nations, but to the other nations of the world.

LEONARD PELTIER

Headwaters defenders take campaign to the woods

by Ann

For the third year in a row, Headwaters Forest supporters are in the woods demonstrating for the preservation of ALL 60,000 acres of Pacific Lumber Company's (PL) Humboldt County redwood forest holdings. After years of encroaching chainsaw massacres, the last six groves of ancient trees stand tall in a sea of devastation. Caring activists have dedicated years to opposing the insatiable greed of this corporation. Last fall, PL and its Texan parent company Maxxam, entered into negotiations toward a "deal" for Headwaters that equals nothing but a big fat SELLOUT for the largest unprotected redwood forest on the planet. The resounding consensus is that Clinton's slick election time dealmaking might leave the Headwaters complex more vulnerable to habitat loss, while "saving" less than 7500 acres and only two of the six ancient groves as a tree museum.

Earth First! is committed to oppose this pathetic whitewash at every turn. By maintaining high profile nonviolent direct

action and civil disobedience throughout September and October, we hope to create political and financial pressure that presents a real crisis to the corporate and governmental powers-that-want to be. We know that true power-staying power-lies with the people united. Over 1500 supporters were arrested last fall, breaking the law for a greater good. This year we want to see those numbers skyrocket, as more and more folks come to the woods, gates and city streets to defy the property lines that serve to silence the will of the people.

The 1986 takeover of PL and the Headwaters Forest by Charles Hurwitz's Maxxam is a classic robberbaron tale. After being bailed out of debt from his failed Texas Savings and Loan bank, the real estate tycoon bought PL and several other companies, hoping to use their profits to eventually pay off his debt. After 10 years on his chopping block, less than 5000 fragmented acres of the 60,000 remains untouched. The new PL is logging faster than ever before, as Hurwitz

paces against time to avoid losing out on potential profits. In exchange for the 7500 acres, the Feds are giving him 380 million dollars and other as yet undisclosed state lands. Congress approved the cash in July, but Pete Wilson is having a hard time dealing. Always paving the way for extractive industry, he seems stumped as to how to engineer something so unconventional. Alongside the land sale, PL is supposed to submit a Habitat Conservation Plan for the future management of all their Humboldt Co. forestland. It's a process under the Endangered Species Act that's supposed to define how the company or developer will avoid trashing an endangered species' habitat., U.S. Fish and Wildlife consults, collects data and makes the final decision. What it usually ends up being is a loophole around the law.

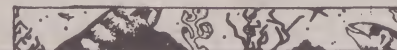
On September 15, the endangered marbled murrelet's nesting season officially ended, and PL can salvage again in all the groves except those in the Deal. Until then, while the parties are negotiating PL's HCP and waiting for the money to come through, business continues as usual. Besides the six isolated groves of ancient trees in the Headwaters Forest, thousands of acres of residual ancient forest remains. With so much focus on setting the main Grove (3000 acres) aside for the deal, these residual stands are easily overshadowed, but they make up a network of crucial endangered wildlife habitat. EF! plans to give these places the attention they deserve.

Ecologically, the redwood forest is an endangered ecosystem that is found in its native state only in small regions far north and south of the Bay Area. The last viable ancient redwood wilderness is found only in Humboldt County. Outside of the National and State

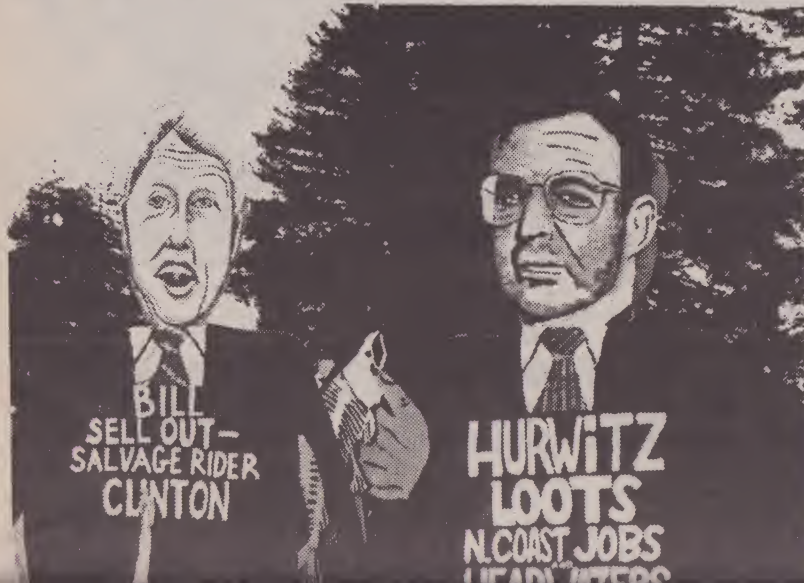
Parks, Headwaters Grove, at 3000 acres, is the very last of its size. Three different endangered species inhabit the old groves, and are quietly receding in numbers as their habitat shrinks. Marbled Murrelet, Spotted Owl and Coho Salmon are all indicator species—they rely on intact and mature forest habitat. The only way to bring their numbers back is to protect ALL of their habitat, and restore the forest that once supported them, and this cannot be done through compromises.

Last fall, huge fallen redwoods of Headwaters Forest suffered a major blow when PL carried out their plans to "salvage" downed trees by dragging them out of at least two smaller ancient groves with steel cables. EF! locked down to dozers and blocked their gates, but the dirty work was done in the blink of an eye. The salvage permit was issued by The California Department of Forestry (CDF) as an exemption to the Federal and State laws that had kept these groves unmolested for so long. The CDF takes policy orders from the state's Board of Forestry, a panel of 9 timber pimps appointed by Pete Wilson, which speaks for itself. CDF is seriously on Earth First!'s shit list.

The clenched fist of corporate greed has consumed every avenue we've used to defend this special place. Now is the time for a massive push from the grassroots, backed by the voices of future generations and the ancient ecological wisdom we have learned from this land. A nonviolent revolutionary mass movement for Headwaters Forest is the only thing that will create a serious disruption to business as usual. Either we watch the forest fall to fill the pockets of a corporate eco-terrorist, or we unite for justice, and reclaim the power to hold Hurwitz accountable for his crimes.



Civil Obedience at Headwaters



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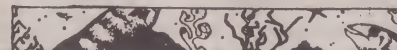
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Civil Obedience at Headwaters

Al Titude

So we traveled, thousands of us, to Humboldt county to demonstrate against the resumption of logging in Headwaters forest, the largest unprotected old-growth redwood stand left in the world. This was the third annual protest and was billed as a rally, march and civil disobedience for headwaters in Carlotta, CA the site of the two previous years' demonstrations.

Upon arriving at the Headwater's base camp, we quickly learned the plans had changed. The Headwaters organizers, apparently pressured by logistical problems and police threats, at the last minute decided instead to hold a rally with no civil disobedience on private land. This backout was a major mistake by the organizers.

The rally was held in Stafford, a town that had recently suffered a devastating mudslide caused by Maxxam's horrendous logging practices. It was, at best, a feel-good accomplish-nothing type of affair. The most defiant and critical speech was probably given by Ex-governor Jerry Brown, who questioned the economic system's right to cut 2,000 year old trees. Brown also slammed the Feinstein-Clinton-Democratic party led sellout of Headwaters. Other speakers memorialized

choreographed media stunt with the police cooperating. It resulted in over a thousand arrests, got extensive national media coverage, and gave the movement to save Headwaters a massive boost.

But bummed by the success of that action, the police didn't cooperate this time around. The organizers, facing hostile police, the prospect of actually having to really do civil disobedience, and the possibility of things not being under their control, buckled big time.

The current Headwaters direct action campaign is probably worse off now. A large, successful action would have spilled over, jazzing more people up for action and boosting the resources put into subsequent actions. Since the main opportunity to get Headwaters into the spotlight was missed, the media has pretty much ignored the direct actions that have been happening in the week following the rally.

We are trying to slow or stop the billion dollar timber industry's assault on what's left of the forests. We should know the police and the government work for the corporations and that they're not going to cooperate. When the authorities throw monkeywrenches at us we need to be ready to adapt. What does it tell



Sept. 14 Headwaters Rally

A Missed Opportunity

(KP)

I want to start with a story. Twenty years ago the anti-nuclear movement was in its infancy. The Clamshell Alliance in New Hampshire was born in 1975. The state had broken ground for Seabrook, a nuke plant in that same state. First they had an action with 18 people planting trees on the site. They were arrested. Then they had a rally that was attended by 1500, and 180 marched to the site and were arrested. Then in May of 1977, they planned a mass occupation. Numbers surpassed their expectations and over 1400 people were arrested and over 1000 did bail solidarity for several days, costing the state \$50,000 / day. Then in 1978 they planned

post-rally civil disobedience action on Sept. 14 because they are my friends and comrades and because they were dealing with absolutely impossible logistics and living in a pressure cooker. When the rally site was moved to Stafford, the only opportunities for cd would be to bus people to the Carlotta site we did cd at in September of 1996, and we could assume the cops would not let the buses down Fisher Road, much less let people disembark; or a march to the town of Scotia (PL company town) a couple miles away, only accessible by interstate 101 or by fording a small river. Given the show of force by cops from every county north of the south Bay (I saw a city bus sized prisoner bus from Alameda county) we



Sept. 14 Headwaters Rally

A Missed Opportunity

(KP)

I want to start with a story. Twenty years ago the anti-nuclear movement was in its infancy. The Clamshell Alliance in New Hampshire was born in 1975. The state had broken ground for Seabrook, a nuke plant in that same state. First they had an action with 18 people planting trees on the site. They were arrested. Then they had a rally that was attended by 1500, and 180 marched to the site and were arrested. Then in May of 1977, they planned a mass occupation. Numbers surpassed their expectations and over 1400 people were arrested and over 1000 did bail solidarity for several days, costing the state \$50,000 / day. Then in 1978 they planned another mass occupation, the biggest ever, as the anti-nuke movement was exploding everywhere and the Clamshell Alliance was one of the most together organizations. They got bogged down in discussions over whether cutting the chain link fence to occupy the site was non-violent, discussions over tactics used by police against other anti-nuke demonstrators in Europe like water cannons and tear gas, and discussions with the cops who wanted them to just occupy a part of the site symbolically, have some speeches, declare victory, and go home without any arrests. The group meeting decided that they couldn't reverse a decision made by a larger group in consensus months earlier, and the occupation would proceed. Pressure continued to mount, and a smaller group ultimately reversed the decision. They held an alternative energy fair on the site, everyone had a wonderful time, no arrests occurred, and the Clamshell Alliance was never the same again.

It is hard to criticize the Headwaters activists that made the decision to cancel the

post-rally civil disobedience action on Sept. 14 because they are my friends and comrades and because they were dealing with absolutely impossible logistics and living in a pressure cooker. When the rally site was moved to Stafford, the only opportunities for cd would be to bus people to the Carlotta site we did cd at in September of 1996, and we could assume the cops would not let the buses down Fisher Road, much less let people disembark; or a march to the town of Scotia (PL company town) a couple miles away, only accessible by interstate 101 or by fording a small river. Given the show of force by cops from every county north of the south Bay (I saw a city bus sized prisoner bus from Alameda county), we could assume they would not let a march onto highway 101. Impossible logistics. Question is, would a cd on a freeway onramp be better than no cd at all? Personally, I think so. The support rally would have had terrific acoustics under that overpass and at least the cops would've been the ones to smother the cd, not us.

I've been invoking a perspective learned from John Trudell in many of my rants about Headwaters of late. That being, that what the corporations and governments think they have is not power at all, it's authority. The true power lies with the people, but only when we recognize that fact, when we gather it together and use it. We had that power in great numbers and we won't have it again for quite a while.

The sandbagging action was a great one, and there was nothing symbolic about it at all. I'm amazed at the local people coming out saying, yeah, we want Hurwitz and Maxxam out of our neighborhood, too. But it still feels like a missed opportunity. A big one.

Napa County to demonstrate against the resumption of logging in Headwaters forest, the largest unprotected old-growth redwood stand left in the world. This was the third annual protest and was billed as a rally, march and civil disobedience for headwaters in Carlotta, CA the site of the two previous years' demonstrations.

Upon arriving at the Headwater's base camp, we quickly learned the plans had changed. The Headwaters organizers, apparently pressured by logistical problems and police threats, at the last minute decided instead to hold a rally with no civil disobedience on private land. This backout was a major mistake by the organizers.

The rally was held in Stafford, a town that had recently suffered a devastating mudslide caused by Maxxam's horrendous logging practices. It was, at best, a feel-good accomplish-nothing type of affair. The most defiant and critical speech was probably given by Ex-governor Jerry Brown, who questioned the economic system's right to cut 2,000 year old trees. Brown also slammed the Feinstein-Clinton-Democratic party led sellout of Headwaters. Other speakers memorialized Judi Bari and called for the saving of all 60,000 acres.

On the other hand the rally had the feeling of a hippiesque concert, including ex-Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart urging the Headwaters herd not to be angry. After the rally we marched a short distance and did a photo-op sandbagging action of a Stafford resident whose house was almost destroyed by the recent mudslide.

At the end of the day it was hard to say what was accomplished. The media coverage sucked. We ended up on the bottom of page 17 of the SF Chronicle. The Oakland Tribune coverage's main thrust was the embarrassing fact that the police had squelched the protest.

After spending months of time, energy, and resources planning and mobilizing 3000-4000 people, the event fell flat. In contrast, last year's action in Carlotta was a well-

attended, got extensive national media coverage, and gave the movement to save Headwaters a massive boost.

But burned by the success of that action, the police didn't cooperate this time around. The organizers, facing hostile police, the prospect of actually having to really do civil disobedience, and the possibility of things not being under their control, buckled big time.

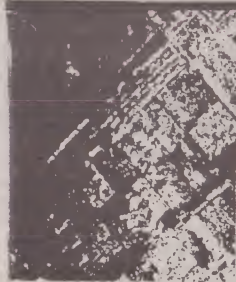
The current Headwaters direct action campaign is probably worse off now. A large, successful action would have spilled over, jazzing more people up for action and boosting the resources put into subsequent actions. Since the main opportunity to get Headwaters into the spotlight was missed, the media has pretty much ignored the direct actions that have been happening in the week following the rally.

We are trying to slow or stop the billion dollar timber industry's assault on what's left of the forests. We should know the police and the government work for the corporations and that they're not going to cooperate. When the authorities throw monkeywrenches at us we need to be ready to adapt. What does it tell the cops and the private industry they protect when their threats alone are enough to stop mass action?

Rank and file tree huggers are capable of deciding for themselves how much risk they are willing to assume, but it seemed like we were at the mercy of the organizers' plans. Organized, coordinated small cell or affinity groups should be prepared with other possible action scenarios, enabling them to act outside of the organizers plans when necessary.

A few other things should be scrutinized as well. How can a small group of organizers cancel such a big plan? Does consensus process mean that radical or risky propositions will always be watered down or squelched to appease liberal tendencies? And what the fuck is with the juvenile nonviolence code and the hall-monitor-like internal peacekeepers? It seems the organizers, like the authorities, wanted obedient protesters.





New Restrictions on Inmates' Access to Law Libraries

Inmates DON'T Get the Books Thrown at Them



By Tudi Goodfruit

Imagine going into your local library and trying to check out a book--only to have the librarian tell you that he's taking away your library privileges. "What for?" you indignantly ask...and rightly so. "I don't like the way you've been looking at me, and besides, you smell kind of funny." Does this scenario sound absurd? It is, and yet this is what will happen in California's prisons if the California Prison Authority decides to go ahead and implement drastic changes to the rules governing prisoners' access to prison law libraries.

These new laws come at a time when California's prison population is growing at an unprecedented rate, largely because of the drug laws and the Draconian "Three strikes, you're out" law. The proposed restrictions on access to these libraries are also unprecedented. The Supreme Court had protected the rights of prisoners to law books in a series of decisions, starting with *Gilmore v. Lynch* in 1970. In this decision, the Court guaranteed prisoners "reasonable access to the courts," and noted that the prisoners' current access to the courts (and thus the law books) was so bad as to be unconstitutional.

Another landmark decision came in *Lewis v. Casey*, decided in 1977. The Court, which by this time had changed composition with a majority of Justices in favor of expanded civil rights, ruled that inmates have a constitutional right to meaningful access to the courts, and they must be provided with law libraries or legal assistance while incarcerated. The direct effect of these two decisions was the exposure of injustices within the prison system by informed inmates. Not only were abuses in prisons brought to light, but the court system itself was exposed as abusive and negligent of

the prison industry as well as for companies that contract with California's prisons to exploit the cheap, captive labor.

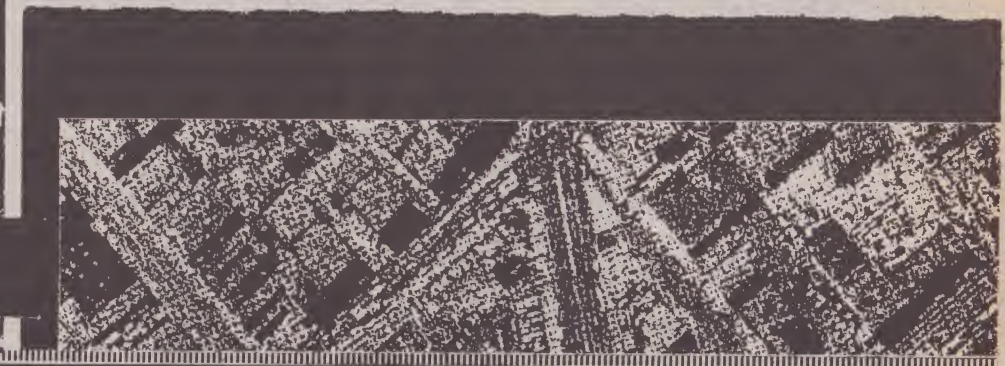
The way these new rules will work in fact is simple. If a prisoner even raises his or her voice in the library (or if the librarian has a personal grudge against the inmate), the librarian can fill out a little slip of paper that bans the prisoner from the law library for

three months. The wording: "...upon documentation of abuse or misuse of law library resources, faculty, or staff working." An inmate could conceivably be banned from the library for writing in the books with a pencil.

If the inmate wished to contest this slip of paper, no longer would he or she be granted a hearing in front of three correctional officers. Instead, one administrator will decide the fate of the inmate's privileges. There is no possibility of contesting this administrator's decision.

These amendments to the Prison Director's rules make it much more convenient for prison

institutions to control the information inside the prisons and give a rosy picture to the public. Another effect of these amendments is an irony straight out of Kafka (or dictatorial governments): the prisoner is sentenced by a court of law, yet is denied access to that same law. The situation is akin to changing the rules of the game midway to finishing. That would be cheating in any reasonable game, yet that is exactly what will and is happening as we speak. Write to the Department of Corrections to demand that these changes not be imposed: Department of Corrections, Regulation and Policy Management Branch, PO Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 94283-0001.



Ruchell Cinque Magee: Sole Survivor Still

Slavery is being practiced by the system under color of law. Slavery 400 years ago, slavery today; it's the same thing, but with a new name. They're making millions and millions

MaGee, dismissed his petitions willy-nilly.

In August, 1970, MaGee appeared as a witness in the assault trial of James McClain, a man charged with assaulting a guard after San

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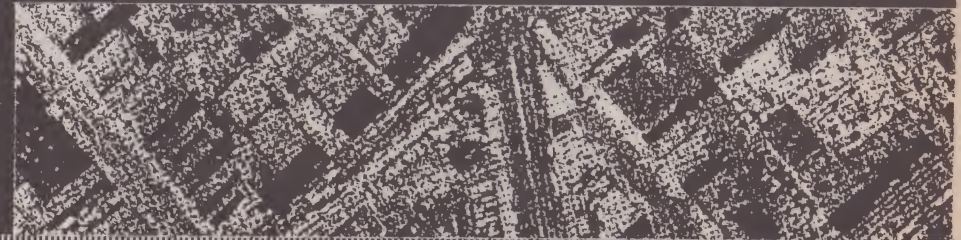
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This situation, however, is soon to change. The Prison Litigation Reform Act, introduced, fittingly enough, by former Senator Bob Dole (R-KS), and sponsored by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), was designed to make it harder and more costly for inmates to file lawsuits while in prison, as well as to limit the federal court's power to oversee conditions in local jails.

The loosely worded PLRA gives a green light to local authorities to not only violate prisoners' civil rights, but to violate their right to access to the courts.

The first county to use the PLRA is Santa Clara County in California. The county is using this blank check to invalidate existing civil rights agreements in their prisons. The first state to make use of the PLRA is California, and it is not a coincidence that this state has the most electoral votes as well.

On 30 June 1997 the California Department of Corrections posted changes to the Prison Director's rules. Under the guise that these new measures will save the State of California one million dollars, as well as ending the staggering number of frivolous lawsuits filed by those incarcerated, the Dept. of Corrections has instituted drastic new changes. One of the biggest problems inherent in these changes is that inmates are now restricted solely to initial pleadings.



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Slavery is being practiced by the system under color of law. Slavery 400 years ago, slavery today; it's the same thing, but with a new name. They're making millions and millions of dollars enslaving Blacks, poor whites, and others - people who don't even know they're being railroaded.

-- Ruchell Cinque Magee*

If you were asked to name the longest held political prisoner in the United States, what would your answer be?

Most would probably reply "Geronimo ji jaga (Pratt)," "Sundiata Acoli", or "Sekou Odinga," all 3 members of the Black Panther Party or soldiers of the Black Liberation Army who have been encaged for their political beliefs or principled actions for decades. Some would point to Lakota leader, Leonard Peltier, who struggled for the freedom of

MaGee, dismissed his petitions willy-nilly.

In August, 1970, MaGee appeared as a witness in the assault trial of James McClain, a man charged with assaulting a guard after San Quentin guards murdered a Black prisoner, Fred Billingsley. McClain, defending himself, presented imprisoned witnesses to expose the racist and repressive nature of prisons. In the midst of MaGee's testimony, a 17 year old young Black man with a huge Afro hairdo, burst into the courtroom, heavily armed.

Jonathan Jackson shouted "Freeze!" Tossing weapons to McClain, William Chirstman, and a startled Magee, who given his 7 year hell where no judge knew the meaning of justice, joined the rebellion on the spot. The four rebels took the judge, the DA and three jurors hostage, and headed for a radio station where they were going to air the wretched prison conditions to the world, as well as

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demand the immediate release of a group of political prisoners, know that The Soledad Brothers (these were John "Cluchette, Fleeta Drumgo, and Jonathan's oldest brother,

Davis, who faced identical charges.

By trial time the cases were severed, with Angela garnering massive support leading to her 1972, acquittal on all charges.

Magee's trial did not garner such broad support, yet he boldly advanced the position that as his imprisonment was itself illegal, and a form of unjustifiable slavery, he had the inherent right to escape such slavery, an historical echo of the position taken by the original Cinque, and his fellow captives, who took over a Spanish slave ship, killed the crew (except for the pilot) and tried to sail back to Africa. The pilot surreptitiously steered the *Amistad* to the US coast, and when the vessel was seized by the US, Spain sought their return to slavery in Cuba. Using natural and international law principals, US courts decided they captives had every right to resist slavery and fight for their freedom.

Unfortunately, Magee's jury didn't agree, although it did acquit on at least one kidnapping charge. The court dismissed on the murder charge, and Magee has been battling for his freedom ever since.

That he is still fighting is a tribute to a truly remarkable man, a man who knows what slavery is, and more importantly, what freedom means.

Cinque's supporters have organized the Ruchell Magee Defense Fund, PO Box 8306, South Bend, IN 46660-8306 [E-mail mathiel@michzana.org] FREE CINQUE !!

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In reality, these changes in the rules are not to stop frivolous lawsuits or to save the taxpayers any significant amount of money. Rather, the intent of these changes is to restrict the prisoners access to the laws so much so that they will remain in prison, docile and impotent to do anything about their situation. Needless to say, this is great for



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Native peoples, thereby incurring the enmity of the US Government, who framed him in a 1975 double murder trial. Those answers would be good guesses, for all of these men have spent hellified years in state and federal dungeons, but here's a man who has spent more.

Ruchell C. Magee arrived in Los Angeles, California in 1963, and wasn't in town for six months before he and a cousin, Leroy, were arrested on the improbable charges of kidnap and robbery, after a fight with a man over a woman and a \$10 bag of marijuana. Magee, in a slam-dunk "trial," was swiftly convicted and swifter still sentenced to life.

Magee, politicized in those years, took the name of the African freedom fighter, Cinque, who, with his fellow captives seized control of the slave ship, the Amistad, and tried to sail back to Africa. Like his ancient namesake, Cinque would also fight for his freedom from legalized slavery, and for 7 long years he filed writ after writ, learning what he calls "guerrilla law", honing it as a tool for liberation of himself and his fellow captives. But California courts, which could care less about the alleged "rights" of a young Black man like

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demand the immediate release of a group of political prisoners, know that The Soledad Brothers (these were John "Cluchette, Fleeta Drumgo, and Jonathan's oldest brother, George). While the men did not hurt any of their hostages, they did not reckon on the state's ruthlessness.

Before the men could get their van out of the court house parking lot, prison guards and sheriffs opened furious fire on the vehicle, killing Christmas, Jackson, McClain as well as the judge. The DA was permanently paralyzed by gun fire. Miraculously, the jurors emerged relatively unscratched, although Magee, seriously wounded by gunfire, was found unconscious.

Magee, who was the only Black survivor of what has come to be called "The August 7th Rebellion," would awaken to learn he was charged with murder, kidnapping and conspiracy, and further, he would have a co-defendant, a University of California Philosophy Professor, and friend of Soledad Brother, George L. Jackson, named Angela

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FREE CINQUE !!

Column Written 5/27/97

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*from radio interview with Kiilu Nyasha
"Freedom is a Constant Struggle," KPFA-FM
(12 Aug., 1995)



Another woman dead as cops stand idly by

by the Purple Berets

On the morning after Thanksgiving, November 29, 1996, Sonoma County, California was rocked again by domestic violence homicide. Mina Arevalo, 40 years old and the mother of two young teenagers, was shot nine times by her husband Nick, who then committed suicide. Mina's 13 year-old daughter discovered her parent's bodies.

The homicide shocked a community still reeling from the murder of Teresa Macias, a Sonoma woman tracked down and shot to death by her estranged husband, Avelino, just seven months before. Avelino then shot and wounded Teresa's mother, Sara, before turning the gun on himself. Law enforcement apathy and misconduct was so striking in the Macias case, it sparked a \$15 million lawsuit against Sonoma County Sheriff Mark Ihde.

Like the murder of Teresa Macias, Mina Arevalo's death is an indictment of law enforcement's response to domestic violence. And as with Macias, official records and interviews with friends and family show police had been called many times before.

Just six weeks before the murder, on October 12th, Rhonert Park police records show a domestic violence call to the Arevalo house. Their report says Mina was uninjured and didn't want her husband arrested.

But when Mina later confided to a friend about the dark bruises on her arms, chest and neck, she said police, "took a cursory peek in bad light and walked out." When she told them she at least wanted Nick to leave for the night, "she said the officer told her, 'It's his house'."

It was probably this same incident Mina later described, saying police had laughed in her face. "She said she asked for a Spanish-speaking officer and they told her, 'We're not her just to please you,'" a friend states. Mina told her friend that Nick left the house that night, but returned as soon as police left. Enraged, he told her she was a fool for calling

the police, and began to beat her again. Mina called the police again. "They told her that if she didn't quit calling they'd arrest her. They never came." Terrified, Mina slept in her van that night.

Tellingly, the original police report sent up to the district attorney on this incident shows a corroborating witness "He said he saw the entire incident," the report states. That alone should have been enough to alert the police supervisor and district attorney there was enough evidence to press charges. The report should have been sent back to police for further investigation, instead the DA simply dumped the case for "lack of corroboration." It wasn't until December 4th, five days after the murder, that Officer Polik (in a move with no purpose but to cover his ass) wrote a supplemental report detailing the eyewitness's statement. Yet again, law enforcement apathy literally kills.

But this was not the first police knew of Nick Arevalo's violence. Neighbors repeatedly called to complain of his late-night shooting sprees. And police dispatch records show six calls to the Arevalo house in little more than a year, including one coded "domestic dispute" in August, 1995. The other 911 calls look harmless on their face — "vehicle abatement" and "animal complaint," for example — but read on.

Friends and family confirm at least four times Mina called police to report the beatings. One call corresponds by date to one of the "barking dog" calls recorded by police dispatchers. On November 4th — less than a month before the murder and just two weeks after the last domestic violence call — Mina fled to a friend's house after being beaten. She said she'd called police, but they never came.

So here we are, one year after Teresa Macias' murder — one internal sheriff's department investigation later, one State Attorney General investigation later, one "Blue Ribbon Committee" report later, who knows how many hundreds of thousands of dollars in domestic violence grants later, and what do we get? Another dead woman.

Another dead woman, and another report of police laughing in her face as they crack jokes with her batterer; threatening to arrest her and not him; failing to write an Emergency Protective Order; using her children as translators; leaving her in worse danger than when they arrived.

There's no doubt that over the past six years, we've been able to wrestle some real change out of local law enforcement: more emphasis on prosecuting crimes against women, better police policies and special units, and enough training to bring most police agencies into this century. But at every turn we see that those changes extend about an inch deep, and then we run dead-on into the hard rock of unchanged police attitudes.

The backlash against every gain

women make is still shocking. For example, we finally get a policy that makes the cops have to start arresting batterers, and immediately the

police forces continues to be overwhelmingly white, overwhelmingly male.

A key step in the right direction would be to hire women officers. After the 1991 police beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles, the Christopher Commission studied the LAPD and police violence. One of their findings was this; of the 120 officers with the most excessive-use-of-force reports, not one was a woman — despite the fact that 13% of LAPD sworn officers were women. At the same time, the study showed women officers weren't reluctant to use force when necessary.

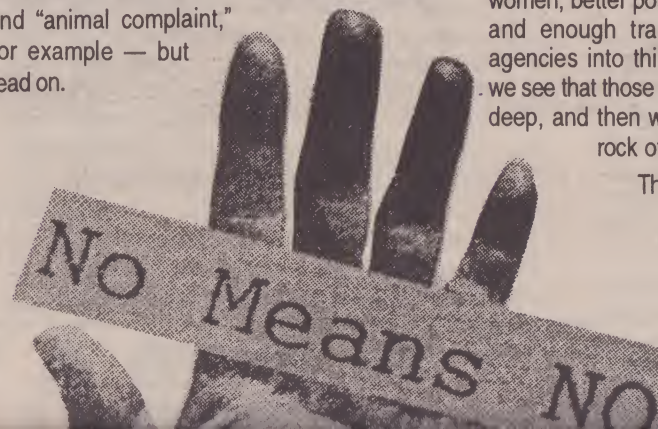
In fact the research shows that female police officers respond more effectively to crimes against women, have better communication skills, are better at defusing potentially violent confrontations, and use force less often than male cops.

Aren't these exactly the qualities that were needed on March 24th in Rohnert Park?

Unfortunately, the odds are slim that a woman cop will respond to any given police call in Sonoma County. While women make up about 10% of police forces nationally, Sonoma County law enforcement is barely 5% women. Clearly those negotiation/defusing-violent-situation skills are just not what's being valued.

In fact, the local sheriff's department is actually going backwards. There are fewer female sworn deputies today than there were two years ago, while four women deputies currently have sex discrimination charges against the department — almost one out of two. Obviously they've got some real problems when it comes to women's right to equal justice, in or out of the workplace.

With the current wave of killings by police, widespread public attention is finally being focused on police conduct. Demonstrations are frequent, a new group called COPA (Coalition Organizing for Police Accountability) has formed, and initial meetings have been called to form a citizen's police review commission. This is a moment when many voices demanding real



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women make is still shocking. For example, we finally get a policy that makes the cops have to start arresting batterers, and immediately the number of women

arrested on domestic

violence charges skyrockets. (In Sonoma County, 1 out of 5 people arrested last year for domestic violence was a woman. This is despite national statistics showing that fully 95% of batterers are men.)

Clearly all the new policies, all the training programs, all the victim counselors in the world won't change anything as long as the same people are in charge, and the makeup of our

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Unfortunately, the odds are slim that a woman cop will respond to any given police call in Sonoma County. While women make up about 10% of police forces nationally, Sonoma County law enforcement is barely 5% women. Clearly those negotiation/defusing-violent-situation skills are just not what's being valued.

In fact, the local sheriff's department is actually going backwards. There are fewer female sworn deputies today than there were two years ago, while four women deputies currently have sex discrimination charges against the department — almost one out of two. Obviously they've got some real problems when it comes to women's right to equal justice, in or out of the workplace.

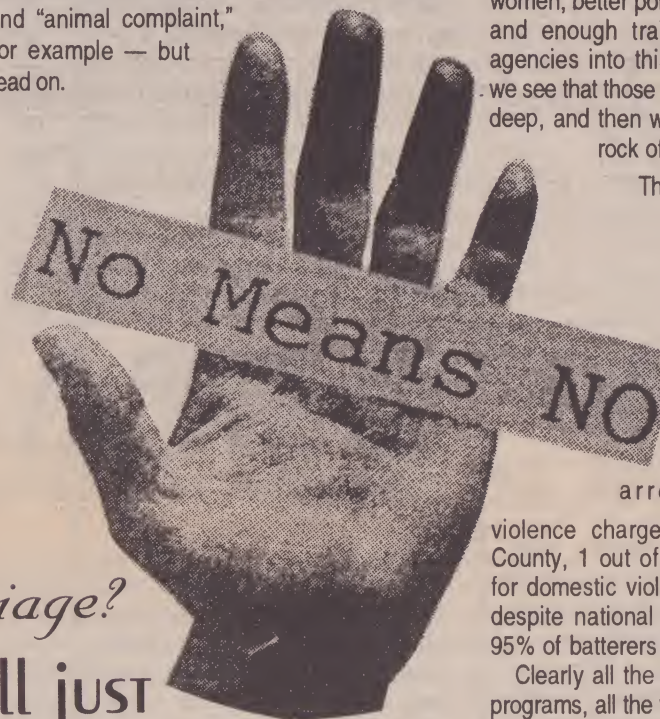
With the current wave of killings by police, widespread public attention is finally being focused on police conduct. Demonstrations are frequent, a new group called COPA (Coalition Organizing for Police Accountability) has formed, and initial meetings have been called to form a citizen's police review commission. This is a moment when many voices demanding real changes in law enforcement.

Women have to play key roles in this process to make sure we end up with a police review commission that investigates not just incidents of police brutality and violence, but also incidents of police neglect.

For more info about 'Women defending women' against police abuse in Sonoma county, contact the Purple Berets: (707) 528-9043, berets@wco.com.



Say Marriage?
**MAY AS WELL JUST
BE STRAIGHT!**



I just met two women who were recently married, a new option that the LesBiGay community is fighting for. Even a good straight liberal can agree with the gay agenda on this one, equal rights to such benefits as tax breaks, medical insurance, pensions, hospital visitation, medical power of attorney, immunity from testifying against a spouse in a court of law, automatic transfers of housing leases, right to sue for wrongful death, and the billion other things that heterosexual married couples are entitled to.

The landmark 1996 case "Baehr v. Mike" in Hawaii opened the door, so to speak, to legal civil registration of marriage between same-sex couples. This marks the beginning of the end to sex discrimination in civil marriage in America, setting many states into motion trying to justify the discrimination they have perpetrated.

Of course gay marriage should exist as a choice. The "open closet door" couples could put their nuptials in the local newspapers and have very public weddings if they chose. These weddings could take the same range of possibilities as heterosexual weddings, anywhere from the religious to secular, elaborate to simple. Couples who

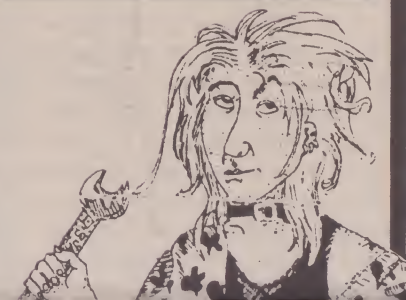


by Kale

Subversive womyn gather

"It was like going to another world entirely," says Tatiana of Oakland's Girl Army about Sister Subverter. The week-long gathering occurred in Northwestern Arkansas on the wooded Amazon Acres, one of several womyn owned homesteads located in that area. Sister

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Of course gay marriage should exist as a choice. The "open closet door" couples could put their nuptials in the local newspapers and have very public weddings if they chose. These weddings could take the same range of possibilities as heterosexual weddings, anywhere from the religious to secular, elaborate to simple. Couples who remain in the "closet" could still benefit from a legal union and keep their marital status secret if they felt the need to protect their privacy. Of course, some couples would still choose not to enter into a legal civil marriage, just like their heterosexual counterparts who prefer to live together without the legal sanctions and benefits of marriage.

But is this "normalization" of the gay community something we really want? Doesn't it make perfect sense that we all, regardless of our marital status, deserve medical insurance? Shouldn't everyone be able to decide who they count as "family?" Shouldn't we all be valued as individuals, rather than as part of a couple—regardless of our sexuality? What will become of the lesbian and gay communities that we have worked so hard to develop once we are married off, living isolated lives in suburbia?

At this point in time, we have a real opportunity to escape from the patriarchal institution of marriage and the state that enforces it. But this requires that we create and maintain communities supportive of a wide variety of relationships—relationships that are not based on ownership and domination. Is our future as bleak as the heterosexual world's, in which possessive marriages and the subsequent alienation of divorce is the norm? There's a postcard going around now - "Gay Marriage? May as well be straight!" All I ask is that after you finish opening the new toaster ovens and silverware, please come back out and continue helping us change the world.

County, 1 out of 5 people arrested last year for domestic violence was a woman. This is despite national statistics showing that fully 95% of batterers are men.)

Clearly all the new policies, all the training programs, all the victim counselors in the world won't change anything as long as the same people are in charge, and the makeup of our

commission that investigates not just incidents of police brutality and violence, but also incidents of police neglect.

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"It was like going to another world entirely," says Tatiana of Oakland's Girl Army about Sister Subverter. The week-long gathering occurred in Northwestern Arkansas on the wooded Amazon Acres, one of several womyn owned homesteads located in that area. Sister Subverter was conceived of by Anarchist and Activist womyn who wanted a gathering that reflected their politics. This was the second Subverter.



Starting on Monday, August 18th, the gathering began with more than 200 in attendance. Daily workshops on a huge variety of topics including racism, direct action, and supporting single moms, as well as daily self-defense trainings, were well attended. Evenings exploded with fire-play, music, drumming, and spin-the-bottle. The week long corn cob building workshop yielded a permanent composting toilet.

Says another 'subvertee', "Sister Subverter was a space for playing, exploring, exchanging experiences and skills and it is the beginning for me in a lot of ways; an inspiration for networking and living in a supportive way instead of competition."

A west coast regional spin off of S.S. called Bad-Ass and Free is now being planned for February 1998. For more information write to Bad-Ass and Free, c/o Black Cat Cafe, 4110 Roosevelt, Seattle, WA 98105



K-MAT

Marijuana Updates

Compiled by PB Floyd

Oregon Recriminalizes Marijuana

In mid-July, Oregon governor John Kitzhaber, an allegedly "liberal" Democrat, signed House Bill 3643, which shifts possession of less than an ounce of marijuana from a non-criminal "violation" to a class C misdemeanor punishable by 30 days in jail, a \$1000 fine and loss of driving privileges for six months.

In 1974, Oregon was the first state in the U.S. to "decriminalize" marijuana by limiting punishment for possession of small amounts of marijuana to a small fine. Previously, simple marijuana possession had been a felony crime across the U.S. In Texas and Rhode Island, simple possession could be punished with a life sentence. In 1970, California arrested 220,000 people on felony drug charges, mandating years in prison, for simple marijuana possession. Even with the felony laws, marijuana use increased, leading state after state after Oregon to decriminalize simple possession.

Eventually, 9 states, including California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina and Ohio, passed decriminalization laws and every state in the union decreased penalties for simple possession. In 1975, the California legislature made possession of less than an ounce of pot punishable by a maximum \$100 fine, and prohibited cops from taking offenders to jail. (Offenders are given a citation like a traffic ticket.)

Drug law liberalization, which appeared to be moving toward legalization, lost steam in 1980 with the election of President Reagan. Now, in the wake of the passage of Prop 215

and Prop. 200 in California and Arizona, respectively, drug law reform is again on the agenda, and further liberalization or even legalization may be in the works. But Oregon is moving against the tide.

The Republican controlled legislature passed the recriminalization bill claiming that the decriminalization law was "sending the wrong message to kids." So far, the recriminalization idea seems to be limited to Oregon.

DA Won't Prosecute

On August 27, the Sacramento County District Attorney announced that it would not prosecute AIDS activist and patient Ryan Landers for smoking pot in public at a Sacramento Mall. Landers was cited by police on August 7 for lighting a joint while dining at



an outdoor restaurant. He carried a letter from a doctor and a San Francisco Cannabis Cultivators Club ID. Patrick Marlette, an assistant DA, said the DA's office concluded that Landers' use of medical marijuana was not illegal under Prop 215. However, the city of Sacramento is considering a law that would prohibit pot smoking in public places. Landers, who says he needs to smoke marijuana several times per day, argues that prohibiting him from smoking in public would trap him in his house.

California Bill

SB 535, which would authorize \$3 million for a three year UC study on the safety and effectiveness of medical marijuana, is gaining speed in the California legislature. After the Senate passed the bill with broad, bipartisan support, Devil-child Dan Lungren announced his support for the study on August 27. The irony of the announcement is high since during the Prop. 215 campaign, Lungren wrote that there were more than "10,000 studies available documenting the harmful physical and psychological effects of smoking marijuana." I guess Lungren's short term memory is going as he starts his run for governor . . .

Tony Serra Goes Public

Tony Serra, renowned criminal defense attorney, issued a press release on August 4 urging other lawyers and professionals to seek prescriptions for medical marijuana to treat stress. Earlier in the summer, Serra met with his doctor for three hours going over the medical indications for a pot prescription. Serra says that he has smoked three joints per night for the last 30 years to treat himself for his "high-stress lifestyle." The doctor concluded that Serra was in a "high-stress category" and issued the prescription. Serra is now a member of the SF Cannabis Cultivators Club.

"Stockbrokers, bankers, real estate marketers, politicians, doctors and lawyers should all seek a doctor's recommendation to avoid the psychological and physiological

consequences of stress. It is time to come off the booze and get on the cannabis" wrote Serra. Hey, how about mothers, truck drivers, and college students! Serra denied that his daily medicine impairs him as a trial lawyer: "You can't practice law stoned so I don't smoke during the day. But I work 60-80 hours a week, I'm a workaholic, and pot has never affected my ability to concentrate. I want other people to know that."

Club Founder Running for Governor

Dennis Peron, founder of the San Francisco Cannabis Cultivators Club, which was raided by heavily armed state police last year, announced that he plans to run for Governor of California in the Republican primary against Dan Lungren. Lungren, California's Attorney General, ordered the raid on the Club and is currently attempting to have Peron sent to prison on drug charges arising out of the raid. Peron has argued in Court that the police raid, which came only months before the election which passed Prop. 215, was a political stunt by Lungren aimed at defeating Prop. 215 and boosting Lungren's own political power.

"Proposition 215 got more votes than Lungren did in the last election" according to John Entwistle, a Peron aid. "Dennis is a business owner, and he has a natural Republican constituency out there -- highly educated, upper income people who don't appreciate unwarranted government intrusion."

Some Buyers Clubs

C.B.C.B. Berkeley	(510)486-1025
Oakland CBC	(510)832-5346
C.H.A.M.P. San Francisco	(415)861-1040
Flower Therapy, SF	(415)255-6305
S.F. Growers Co-Op, SF	(415)621-3986
Sweetleaf Collective, SF	(415)273-4663
San Jose CBC	(408)847-7008
Bulldog, Sacramento	(916)556-3722
Los Angeles CBC	(213)874-0811
Orange County CBC	(714)543-5123
San Luis Obispo	(805)239-9200
Ukiah CBC	(707)462-7913

SHORTER WORK WEEK

BREAD



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SHORTER WORK WEEK

MODEST PROPOSAL FOR BERKELEY

Every year the rich get richer and the people who do the work stagnate, or get paid less. The wealth of the richest 1 percent of Americans has increased almost 50 percent since 1989, while the median family wealth has remained unchanged for the last 15 years. The stock market has doubled over the last 30 months and corporate profits are exploding. Meanwhile, wage levels are declining, benefits are being cut, working conditions are deteriorating and good jobs are moving to low wage countries. Even when wages aren't cut, but just stay the same, workers lose the amount of inflation every year. These "invisible" losses have been going on for 20 years.

The Committee for a Shorter Work Week in Berkeley is hoping to do something about this attack on the working class. Building on the immensely successful state initiative petition drive to increase the minimum wage which was passed in the last California election, they hope to pass an initiative in Berkeley to cut the work week to 35 hours a week with no decrease in

negotiating power of workers. With technological improvements constantly reducing the amount of labor needed to create social wealth, it is only natural that the average work week should be reduced to keep pace. Throughout the industrial revolution, the labor movement struggled to reduce the length of the work week. By the 1930s, the 40 hour week had become the standard. Workers have been stuck at the 40 hour week since then.

It takes a minimum of 4,363 valid Berkeley signatures, out of about 100,000 registered Berkeley voters, to get an initiative on the ballot. The committee has come up with draft language for the initiative, which they are hoping to revise, improve and then submit to the city. After the initiative is "published" by the city, there are 180 days to circulate the petition. The Committee is aiming to have the initiative on either the June or November, 1998 election ballot. They hope to use innovative, community based tactics, and avoid paid signature gatherers, in getting the initiative on the ballot.

If you want to get involved, contact the

BREAD

because you knead it!



by Ximena

Money. You hate it--maybe, you must have it--surely. Its acquisition will claim your best years, dampen your creative initiative and suck the very life out of you. For money most of us trade our time and skill, our muscle or brain, whole decades of existence as wasted as a 7 gallon flush. In the mean time we enrich the people whose very words can terminate our livelihood.

You've heard this all before. You know why you hate jobs--if not necessarily work; you're a cog, a wage-slave, a Ph.D. with more vision than bucks, a class-traitor who "got it." Maybe you're just tired of seeing a third or more of your paycheck extorted every-fucking-time-and-there-isn't-a-damn-thing-you-can-do-about-it. So what, if you don't want to subsidize the meat and dairy industry, the war machine, the petro-chemical industry, corrupt foreign governments, the corporate elite, the pri\$on \$ystem or border patrols. For every bucket you sweat to earn a paycheck one-third goes directly back to the corporations. Oops, I mean the government. The rest eventually makes its

exchange between members and with participating local businesses. Their currency is printed in hours and comes in one, half and one-quarter hour denominations. The rate of exchange is an agreed upon \$12 per hour minimum wage. The advantages of this are clear. You can trade your hours with many people with different skills. That person will then trade that same bill with another local person and the cycle repeats itself. This means our labor stays here. Bread is not electronically transferable. No, its not backed by the gold standard but neither are the dollars in your wallet, your bank account, your IRA or social security account.

There are a variety of skills offered in the BREAD directory. I counted eighteen categories. The listing offers everything from childcare to computer literacy, auto repair to gardening, tutoring in many areas, carpentry, book repair, accounting skills, etc. I couldn't possibly list all the headings let alone their contents. The best way to find out more about BREAD is to join the directory.

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A shorter work week not only gives workers extra personal time in these hectic times, but it creates a labor shortage which increases the

negotiating power of workers. With technological improvements constantly reducing the amount of labor needed to create social wealth, it is only natural that the average work week should be reduced to keep pace. Throughout the industrial revolution, the labor movement struggled to reduce the length of the work week. By the 1930s, the 40 hour week had become the standard. Workers have been stuck at the 40 hour week since then.

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If you want to get involved, contact the Committee at PO Box 451, Oakland, CA 94604. Or call (510)595-3229 for more information. Meetings are going to be every other Saturday starting October 11 at 10a.m. at the Berkeley Public Library Claremont Branch at Ashby and Benvenue in Berkeley.



by Ximena

Money. You hate it-maybe, you must have it--surely. Its acquisition will claim your best years, dampen your creative initiative and suck the very life out of you. For money most of us trade our time and skill, our muscle or brain, whole decades of existence as wasted as a 7 gallon flush. In the mean time we enrich the people whose very words can terminate our livelihood.

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The point of my rant is that almost anything we do goes to benefit the power structure. Once we've bought at a chain or from a corporation our money leaves the local economy. It no longer circulates back to us to improve our standards of living, inspire initiative, create a viable mode of exchange. That's your life blood coursing through someone else's veins.

For years I've been pounding my head, avoiding wage-slave dynamics, living a rewarding and frugal life. All the while thinking, knowing, there has to be a better way, an alternative to the continuous unrelenting grind. Something that will give us empowerment as well as a tangible economic boost. Something that can benefit us both personally and collectively.

Well there is. We now have BREAD (Berkeley Regional Exchange and Development) a local organization that is doing exactly what so many of us have been dreaming about for years. BREAD has printed its own money to be used as a valid mode of

exchange between members and with participating local businesses. Their currency is printed in hours and comes in one, half and one-quarter hour denominations. The rate of exchange is an agreed upon \$12 per hour minimum wage. The advantages of this are clear. You can trade your hours with many people with different skills. That person will then trade that same bill with another local person and the cycle repeats itself. This means our labor stays here. Bread is not electronically transferable. No, its not backed by the gold standard but neither are the dollars in your wallet, your bank account, your IRA or social security account.

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Contact BREAD at PO Box 3973, Berkeley, CA 94703 (510) 704-5247, 595-4011 (fax). *The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of BREAD.*



Shopping in Berkeley

by Aaron Cometbus

I'm always ranting about supporting small local businesses instead of the big chain stores, but then I go into the small businesses like Watson's or Morley's and bargain with them until they sell to me at cost. I see if the bakery will give me half-price at the end of the day. I give the rotting old guy on the corner of Euclid and Ridge Road a dollar sixteen plus half a cigarette and a small plastic giraffe for two books, instead of the two dollars he's asking. Who can put a price on stories, knowledge, and history? But then the books turn out to be two of the best books I've ever read, and I have to return to that corner every weekend trying to find the rotting old guy to appease my guilt. Probably he was a dollar short on rent, got kicked out on the street, and caught pneumonia. No wonder the small businesses are dying. I'm killing them.

I've got all these systems. A small coffee in a large cup. One large coffee split between three large cups. A small burrito in a large tortilla. Confusion tactics. It's almost impossible

for them to give me as little as I'm paying for without feeling like a cheapskate, though of course I'm the cheapskate. I dream my cheapskate ideal: cooking only rice while buying sauces by the quart from every restaurant in town. Knowing a bartender who's trying to invent their own drink and wants to use me as the test subject. A dry cleaner who'll give me all the unclaimed clothes, plus friends at the ice cream place and movie theatre. Unfortunately, even a free bagel is getting hard to come by now that my friends are successful musicians. I was happy for them when they got to quit their lousy day jobs, but sad for me. You can't eat, or wear, promo records, although they do help pay the rent.

It's hard to support smaller businesses when the chain stores are the only ones that can afford to stock up on low-selling items like size fifteen shoes. They are a rare item, also a conversation piece, so I end up meeting more people while I'm out looking for a new pair than I do at any other time of year. Everyone has

something to say about large feet, and it's usually sort of sleazy. It's also hard to avoid office supply chainstores and go to Barlow's instead, especially when I find out that Barlow is a scumbag. I cry everytime I pay a dollar fifty each for pens, twice the price of Office Depot, but I'd still rather support a local scumbag than a multi-national one.

I go out shopping in Berkeley, and I end up in the middle of a moral crisis. Should I get beer from the liquor store which shortchanges me and rips me off, or the grocery store which overcharges and rips off the entire community? Should I go to the copy shop owned by Iranian refugees who fled persecution from the shah and who now support the Ayatollah, or the copy shop owned by the Iranian refugees who supported the shah and who were later persecuted by the Ayatollah because they are Jews? What business is it of mine anyway? But in Berkeley everything is everybody's business. It's "think globally, act locally" taken to its lowest common denominator.

Even at a garage sale, I get all involved in someone else's life. There's the usual tell-tale trinkets from lost lovers, exercise bikes, and clothes that no longer fit, just like garage sales everywhere, but in Berkeley there's also ideologies, movements, and lifestyles that no longer fit. With the rows and rows of self-help books, you feel like you're at a 12-step meeting, except there's no free coffee. *Men who Beat the Men who Love Them, Men who Hate Women and the Women who Love Them, Women who Drink, Women who Love Sex, Women who Walk Through Fire, Women whose Lives are Food, Men whose Lives are Money. Children of Alcoholics, Children of Intermarriage, Children of Dune.* How can anything be a bargain when you know that by buying the junk, you also get the emotional burden that comes with it? No wonder old photos are so cheap. I got a funny feeling when I bought a strobe light for a dollar at Country Joe's yard sale, and, sure enough, he's looked younger ever since.

The Berkeley Page

Not *Our* Town

Shopping Carts Unite!

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No New Police Station!

Police supporters in Berkeley are trying to jump on the bandwagon of "War on Crime" hysteria and the blitzkrieg expansion of the criminal justice industry to build a new fortress police station. The building will undoubtedly stand as a symbol of the fact that even in Berkeley repression is winning out as the solution to social problems.

Over 60% of the cases currently in the

foot monstrosity. The police force could be downsized from its current size of 321 officers and the extra money spent on a whole array of social and cultural programs.

Furthermore, billed as a "Public Safety Building," city planners are attempting to conceal the draconian nature of police by placing them in the same building as the fire department.

Shopping Carts Unite!

On the night of August 29 at approximately 3 a.m. in a deserted shopping market parking lot over fifty odd (yes, well, quite odd by most standards though who's to say) homeless and home owner shopping cart drivers met to discuss mutual problems and to ORGANIZE! Notes of the meeting follow

1) The group decided to have no laws, no rules, each issue would be handled as it came along.

2) Mike Mechanic offered to help anyone with wiggley wheels.

3) The group talked anxiously about the coming end of the world and decided that they were tuned into the urgency of such an event because people with many possessions are too busy hanging onto the pleasures and decadence of this world to notice that the birds are singing new songs. The group decided that when the Big BOOM or Big Bang or big whatever comes the earth planet will be strewn with such chaos leaving those who collect recyclables in high demand. It will then be their responsibility to gather metal, including aluminum and others, plastic, paper, glass, etc. from elsewhere all over the frigging place because bits and pieces will be all that's left of proud lands. The items will be

categorized and built into their proper sections and will rise like mountains; tremendous piles like sacrificial alters rising up to the sky; leftovers from thousands of civilizations. Colossal masses of STUFF to be judged by the Gods and Goddesses. After the piles are made the shopping cart people will dust off their hands, bow their heads solemnly and then raise their heads to the sky and laugh and laugh and laugh uproariously.

4) While waiting for this finale of the earth the shopping cart group will hold a fundraiser selling empty shopping carts devoid of anything but a few microcosmic organisms to people in the islands of the South Pacific who have never seen shopping carts. The money made will sponsor a parade during which all present will decorate their shopping carts like circus floats in a parade and roll doobies as big as your arm. Contestants will box with their carts and the winner will be declared when the loser's cart is turned upside down.

5) The group will meet whenever and carry on like there's no tomorrow.

--signed Nate the note guy with help from Louie and Martin the Muskrat



No New Police Station!

Police supporters in Berkeley are trying to jump on the bandwagon of "War on Crime" hysteria and the blitzkrieg expansion of the criminal justice industry to build a new fortress police station. The building will undoubtedly stand as a symbol of the fact that even in Berkeley repression is winning out as the solution to social problems.

Over 60% of the cases currently in the criminal justice system are from the drug war. History has shown us however, that reliance on the criminal justice system to solve social problems such as drug abuse merely perpetuates a cycle of crime and punishment, leaving the social problems unsolved.

With the ongoing economic, racial, and political polarization of American society, some would legislate the economically expendable out of existence, warehousing them in prisons. Instead of spending \$18 million on a new police station, we should be building institutions of inclusivity, of economic access for all to the goods of society, to solve the social problems and drug problems.

Since so many police services are drug related, if Berkeley moved from criminalization to a harm reduction drug policy, there would be no need for the proposed 66,000 square

foot monstrosity. The police force could be downsized from its current size of 321 officers and the extra money spent on a whole array of social and cultural programs.

Furthermore, billed as a "Public Safety Building," city planners are attempting to conceal the draconian nature of police by placing them in the same building as the fire department.

And finally, the City will need to divert money from seismic retrofit funds, a misuse of that funding. In the past the people of Berkeley voted for a seismic upgrade of the existing police station, not a new four story repression facility with a weight room, gymnasium and shooting range. This backroom decision by City leaders is a manipulation of the democratic process.

This issue must be opened up to the public for discussion. We need to consider the alternatives to the insane jail-everyone policy that has much of our society currently under its grip. Opposition to this proposed facility could represent a coalition against all kinds of repression.

Coalition for Alternatives
Berkeley, CA (510) 841-7460
gmsasso@sj.bigger.net

standards though who's to say) homeless and home owner shopping cart drivers met to discuss mutual problems and to ORGANIZE! Notes of the meeting follow

1) The group decided to have no laws, no rules, each issue would be handled as it came along.

2) Mike Mechanic offered to help anyone with wiggly wheels.

3) The group talked anxiously about the coming end of the world and decided that they were tuned into the urgency of such an event because people with many possessions are too busy hanging onto the pleasures and decadence of this world to notice that the birds are singing new songs. The group decided that when the Big BOOM or Big Bang or big whatever comes the earth planet will be strewn with such chaos leaving those who collect recyclables in high demand. It will then be their responsibility to gather metal, including aluminum and others, plastic, paper, glass, etc. from elsewhere all over the frigging place because bits and pieces will be all that's left of proud lands. The items will be

up to the sky; leftovers from thousands of civilizations. Colossal masses of STUFF to be judged by the Gods and Goddesses. After the piles are made the shopping cart people will dust off their hands, bow their heads solemnly and then raise their heads to the sky and laugh and laugh and laugh uproariously.

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PREPARATION

After choosing your board, be sure to inspect it during day and night. Take note of all activities in the area. Who is about at 2:00 a.m.? How visible will you be while scaling the support structure? Keep in mind you will make noise; are there any apartment or office windows nearby? Is anyone home?

What is the visibility to passing cars on surface streets and freeways? What can you see from your work position on the board? Even though it is very difficult to see a figure on a dark board at night, it is not impossible. Any point you have line of sight vision with is a point you can be seen from.

How close is your board to the nearest police station or Highway Patrol headquarters? What is their patrol pattern in the area? Average response time to Joe Citizen's call? If you are definitely spotted, it may pay to have your ground people check them out rather than just hoping they don't call the cops. Have your ground person(s) pretend to be chance passersby and find out what the observer thinks. We've been spotted at work a number of times and most people were amused.

Go up on the board prior to your hit. Get a feeling for being there and moving around on the structure at night. Bring a camera--it's a good cover for doing anything you're not supposed to: "Gee, officer, I'm a night photographer, and there's a great shot of the Bay Bridge from up here. . ."



THE DEPARTMENT S-



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THE DEPARTMENT S-

HOW TO

If you are changing only a small area (one letter, a small symbol, etc.) you probably do not need to go to any elaborate lengths to match or design your "overlay" (we'll use this term to describe the finished image/lettering you'll be applying to the board). Just take actual measurements of tracings directly off the board.

There are two basic ways to match the background and/or colors of the lettering or image area. 1) On painted or paper boards you can usually carve a small (1"x 1") sample directly off the board. This does not always work on older painted boards which have many thick layers of paint. 2) Most large paint stores carry small book paint samplers. It is possible to get a pretty close match from these samplers.

If you wish to match a letter style exactly, pick up a book of different letter types from a graphic arts store. Use this in conjunction with tracings of existing letters to create the complete range of lettering needed for your alteration.

We recommend not using overlays much larger than 4'x3'. If your message is larger, you should section it and butt the sections together for the finished image. It gets very windy on boards and large paste-overs are difficult to apply. Use heavy pattern paper for overlays and gloss lacquer paint. The lacquer paint suffuses the paper, making it super-tough, water resistant, and difficult to tear. For making overlays, roller coat the background and spray paint the lettering through cardboard cut-out templates of the letters.

Although there are many types of adhesive which can be



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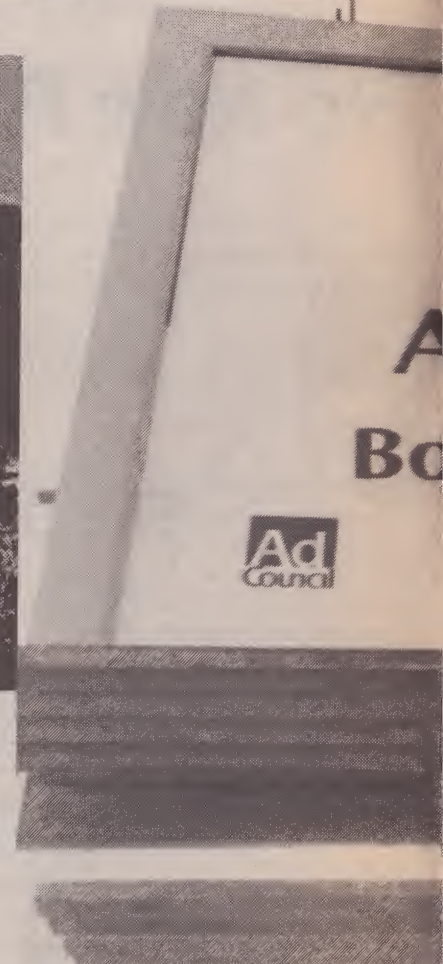
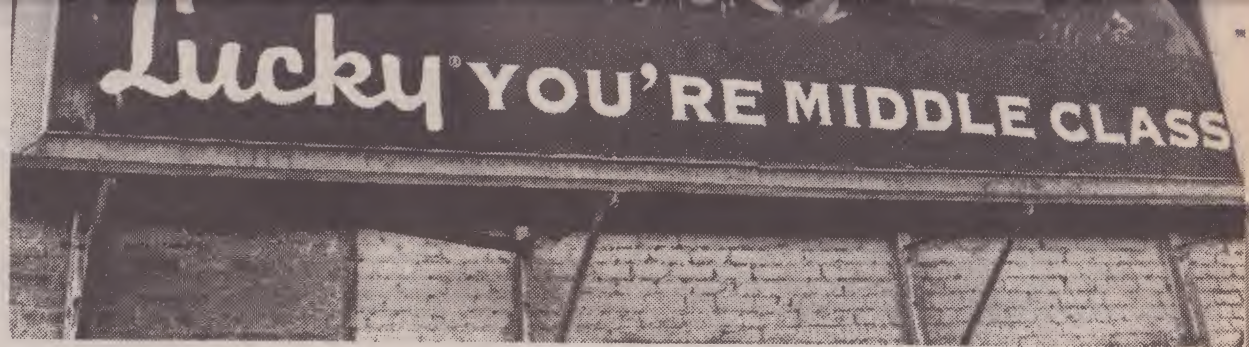
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Although there are many types of adhesive which can be used, we recommend rubber cement. Rubber cement is easily removable (but if properly applied will stay up indefinitely) and does not damage or permanently mark the board's surface. This becomes crucial if you're apprehended and the authorities and owners attempt to assess you for money lost due to property damage.

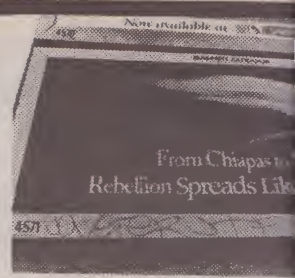
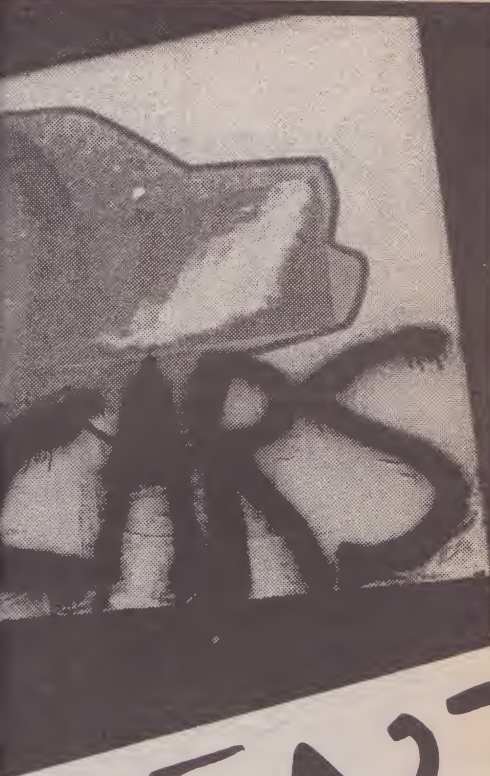
Application of rubber cement on large overlays is tricky. You need to evenly coat both the back-side of the paste-over, and the surface of the board that is to be covered. Allow one to two minutes drying time before applying the paper to the board. To apply the cement use full sized (10") house paint rollers and a five-gallon plastic bucket. Have one person coat the back of the paste-overs while another coats the board's surface. Both people will be needed to affix the coated paste-over to the finished board surface.

Most boards are brightly lit by floodlights of some type. Most large boards are shut off some time between 11:00 pm and 2:00 am by a time clock control somewhere on or near the board. Smaller boards frequently are controlled by photo-electric cells or conventional timeclocks, also somewhere on the board. If you find the photo-electric cell, you can turn the lights on the board off by taping a small flashlight directly into the cell's "eye." This fools the unit into thinking it is sunrise--the time the lights are supposed to turn off.

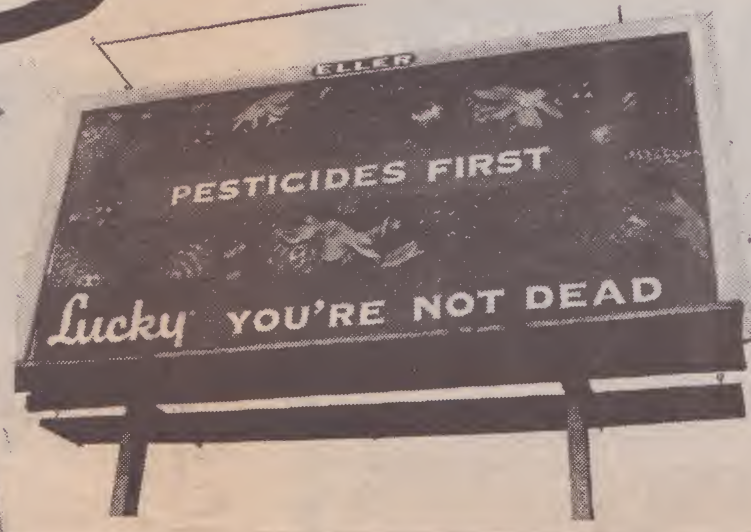
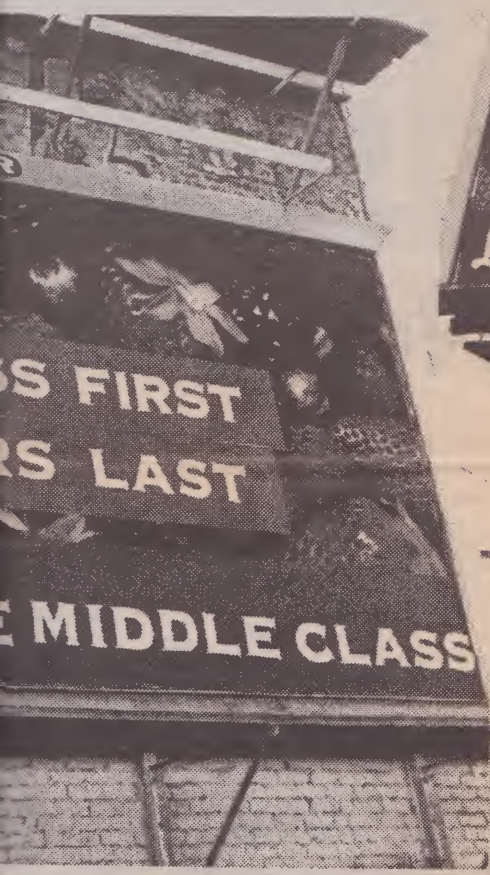


TEXT FROM THE ART AND SCIENCE OF
BILLBOARD IMPROVEMENT
BY THE BILLBOARD LIBERATION FRONT & FRIENDS

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



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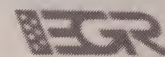
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Aim High Bomb the Pentagon



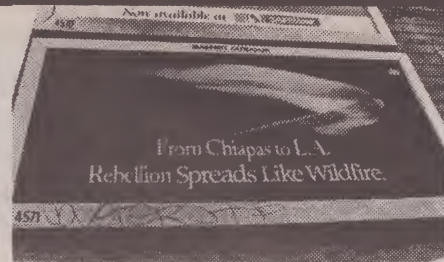
Subvert your employers in the Guard and Reserve.




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WE'RE PARTIAL TO
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OF CORRECTIONS TRIKES AGAIN

 California Department of Corrections OPERATIONS MANUAL	General Administration
	Organizational Structure
	Organization

POLICY

The California Department of Corrections (CDC) has established an organizational structure which provides for efficient and effective management of all facets of billboard advertising to include care, treatment, discipline, training, and employment.

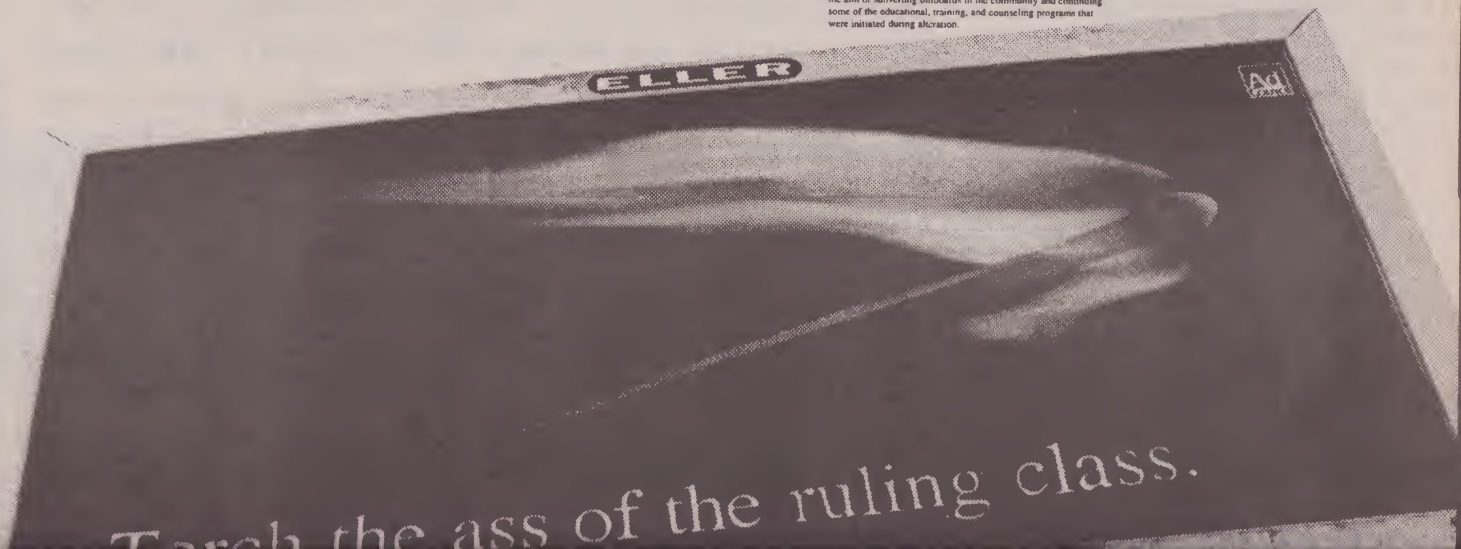
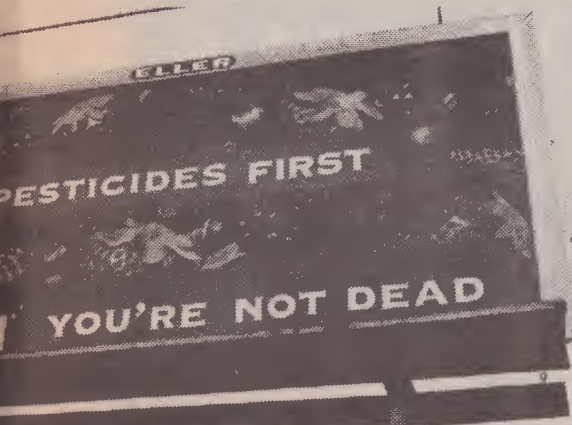
PURPOSE

This section outlines the administrative organization of the Department.

DEPARTMENT MISSION

The Department protects the public by:

- Allowing California's most criminal advertising in a secure, safe and disciplined setting.
- Providing work, academic education, vocational training, and specialized treatment utilizing California's billboards.
- Providing supervision, surveillance, and specialized services with the aim of subverting billboards in the community and continuing some of the educational, training, and counseling programs that were initiated during incarceration.



TRIKE

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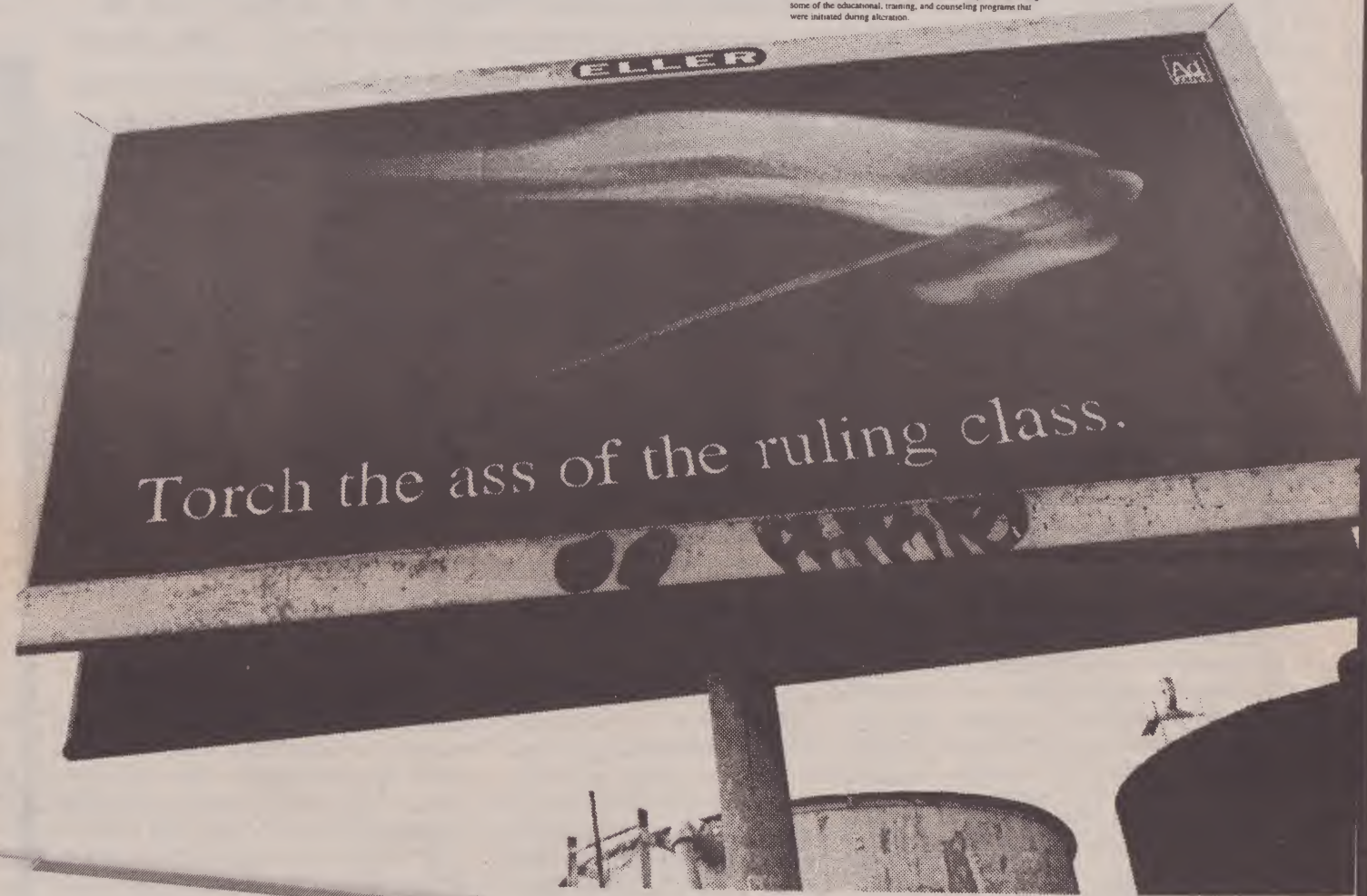
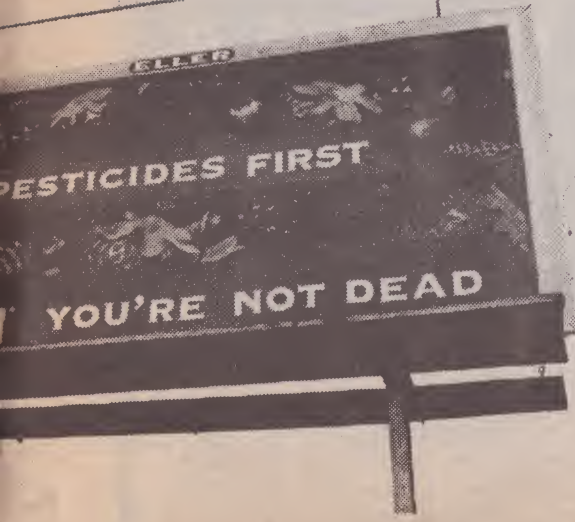
PURPOSE

This section outlines the administrative organization of the Department.

DEPARTMENT MISSION

The Department protects the public by:

- Altering California's most criminal advertising in a secure, safe and disciplined setting
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- Providing supervision, surveillance, and specialized services with the aim of subverting billboards in the community and continuing some of the educational, training, and counseling programs that were initiated during incarceration.




THE HIT

Once you've completed the preparations and are ready for the actual hit, there are many things which can be done to minimize the risk of apprehension:

A) Personnel: Have the smallest number of people possible on the board. Three is about optimum--two for the actual work and one lookout/communications person. You will probably require additional spotting teams on the ground.

B) Communications: For work on larger boards where you're exposed for great lengths of time, we recommend hand-held communications devices (CB units or FM-band walkie-talkies).



patrick

aim High bomb the Pentagon

Subvert your employers in the Guard and Reserve.

EGR

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Have one or two cars positioned at crucial intersections within sight of the board. The ground units should monitor oncoming traffic and maintain radio contact with the lookout on the board. Do not use the popular CB or FM channels; there are many others to choose from. A verbal code is a good idea since others do have access to the channels you will be using.

It is crucial that your ground crew do not lounge around outside their vehicle(s) or in any other way make it obvious that they are hanging around a likely desolate area late at night for no apparent reason. A passing patrol car will notice them much sooner than they would notice you on the board.

C) Escape: If you've done your homework, you'll know the terrain surrounding the board quite well. In the event of detection, prepare a number of alternate routes out of the area, and a rendezvous point with the ground support crew. If a patrol is approaching and you are in a difficult spot for quickly ditching and hiding (hanging on a rope in the middle of the board, for instance), it may be better simply to stay still until they pass. Movement is more likely to catch the eye. Once on the ground, if pursuit is imminent, hiding may be the safest bet. If you've covered the terrain carefully, you'll be aware of any good hiding spots.

Stashed clothing in your hiding spot may prove useful. A business suit, perhaps, or rumpled and vomit-encrusted leisure wear. Be creative.

Bicycling Over the Rainbow

Redesigning cities—and beyond

by Chris Carlsson

Critical Mass is nearly three years old. In terms of sheer numbers it is still growing, but the more profound goals associated with a developing political culture are substantially unmet. As a founder of CM and someone who has been on each and every ride in San Francisco I'd like to blurt a bit:

The growing pains we've experienced during the last six months, while not much fun, are in any case inevitable as an event takes on a life of its own. The July ride, nearing 3,000 riders, was an impressive display of statistical growth, but conversely it was what I've dubbed the "Stepford Wives" ride: it was characterized by an unusual zombie-like silence and lack of energy which underscored the basic anonymity in which even we regulars found ourselves engulfed.

Of course when we started out with 45 bicyclists in September 1992, I fantasized about Critical Mass becoming a big mass event, but it was never an important goal. Far more important to me was the lived experience of new communities, new friends, new social spaces, and most importantly, a new political space. Now that CM is so big, those of us who seek communitarian and utopian moments will have to make a greater effort to make them happen and can count less on the spontaneous combustion that has been a hallmark of the Critical Mass experience in the past.

I and a bunch of others informally planned routes and published most of the maps, Missives, and many other xerocratic documents, stickers, etc., during the first two years. A couple of dozen people found their way into the "process," which was amorphous and a bit clique-y but emphatically open. (We did jealously guard the secrecy of the process from those who might have shared it with the

attack anyone who attempts to cork or establish dialogues with motorists or in various ways break out of the acceptable norm of a police-sanctioned and -controlled parade. (There is at least one individual who is seeking order, predictability and legal standing for Critical Mass, cooperation with the police, and a trajectory towards a bicycling Bay to Breakers, which may grow into a mega-event with refreshments, commercial sponsors, and entertainment at the end!)

To avoid the inevitable progression into an oversized, predictable and dull parade we might consider our original pretense: that we are merely RIDING HOME TOGETHER and break into 5 or 7 alternate groups heading for different neighborhoods at a designated midpoint, like the Civic Center or Market and Van Ness. I am already tired of the apparent attempt to visit every hilltop in town, and have

another tool, and has no will of its own. When I bicycle around town I see things happening and can stop and explore them in depth with no hassles. I also see my friends and acquaintances and can stop and speak with them directly. This, combined with the absence of mass media pumping into my brain in the isolation of my car, sets up organic links and direct channels of human experience and communication. These links are potentially quite subversive to the dominant way of life in modern America, which is one of the reasons I like bicycling.

But bicycling is not an end in itself, just like Critical Mass is really about a lot more than just bicycling. Our embrace of bicycling doesn't eliminate an enormous social edifice dedicated to supporting the privately owned car and oil industries. Similarly, the infrastructural design of our cities and communities is slow to change in the face of our

challenge that faces us all. Maybe some folks will begin direct action campaigns around open space, transit corridors, park and wildlife corridors, etc.? Perhaps others will band together at work to demand that their employer dedicate 10% of their hours to work in the city helping build an ecologically sound urban alternative? Clearly, the daunting task of remaking city life on a humane and ecological basis is going to take a serious challenge to the status quo, one unlikely to emerge from existing entities that claim to be political. So take heart my friends, be patient but not lazy, wait but don't dawdle, act with intelligence, an open mind, and good will, and reject the easy ideological clichés. Life is very different these days, but not nearly as different as we would like it to be, and certainly not different in the ways that would make for an equitable, enjoyable, ecological and fulfilling human life for all of us.

We conceived Critical Mass to be a new kind of political space, not about PROTESTING, but about CELEBRATING our vision of preferable alternatives, in this case bicycling over the car culture.

never been interested in 17-mile endurance rides. This brings us to what must be a profound divergence among Critical Mass participants: are you participating to have a bike ride or a social experience? Most of us want both, I'm sure, but most of us can probably identify our primary motivation as one or the other. I want the social experience and I don't need the bike ride to be really long or necessarily go to obscure parts of the city. I actually liked the early days when we loomed

preferential choice of bicycling. Finally, we won't see any real change if we continue to act as isolated consumer/commuters, and in part Critical Mass allows us to begin coming together. But Critical Mass is far from enough, and until we begin challenging a whole range of technological choices at their roots, our and the planetary ecology are likely to continue worsening. Our capitalist society doesn't really care what we buy or which toys we like to play with, as long as we keep working

10 ways a city can promote bicycling

1. Exempt bicycles from obeying stop signs (especially 4-way) when the bike is the only vehicle approaching an intersection.
2. Fix pot holes that form in the space between where cars drive and the side of the

dubbed the "Stepford Wives" ride: it was characterized by an unusual zombie-like silence and lack of energy which underscored the basic anonymity in which even we regulars found ourselves engulfed.

Of course when we started out with 45 bicyclists in September 1992, I fantasized about Critical Mass becoming a big mass event, but it was never an important goal. Far more important to me was the lived experience of new communities, new friends, new social spaces, and most importantly, a new political space. Now that CM is so big, those of us who seek communitarian and utopian moments will have to make a greater effort to make them happen and can count less on the spontaneous combustion that has been a hallmark of the Critical Mass experience in the past.

I and a bunch of others informally planned routes and published most of the maps, Missives, and many other xerocratic documents, stickers, etc., during the first two years. A couple of dozen people found their way into the "process," which was amorphous and a bit clique-y but emphatically open. (We did jealously guard the secrecy of the process from those who might have shared it with the police, since it was and is our feeling that police involvement would inevitably destroy the free-spirited quality of the event.)

My guess is that the silent majority of riders for the most part would be happier if the police stayed home and don't want to deal with police one way or the other -- they neither want to fight the cops nor submit to them. In general we've always sought to ignore the police, since we are merely using the city's roads to go where we're going, just like any other commuter or traveler. Our flouting of traffic norms (essentially red lights and stop signs) was designed to ensure the safety of the mass of bicyclists AND that of the isolated motorist who unexpectedly and suddenly finds herself surrounded by hundreds of boisterous bicyclists in what can be an intimidating experience. We also run lights and stop signs to keep moving and bring the minor traffic delay to an end that much

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We conceived Critical Mass to be a new kind of political space, not about PROTESTING but about CELEBRATING our vision of preferable alternatives, most obviously in this case bicycling over the car culture. Importantly we wanted to build on the strong roots of humor, disdain for authority, decentralization, and self-direction that characterize our local political cultural history. Critical Mass descends from the anti-nuke movement as much as it does from the bicycling initiatives of the past. It is as much street theater as it is a (semi-)functional commute, or at least it has been at its best. It is inherently anti-corporate even though there are more uncritical

just bicycling. Our embrace of bicycling doesn't eliminate an enormous social edifice dedicated to supporting the privately owned car and oil industries. Similarly, the infrastructural design of our cities and communities is slow to change in the face of our

preferential choice of bicycling. Finally, we won't see any real change if we continue to act as isolated consumer/commuters, and in part Critical Mass allows us to begin coming together. But Critical Mass is far from enough, and until we begin challenging a whole range of technological choices at their roots, our and the planetary ecology are likely to continue worsening. Our capitalist society doesn't really care what we buy or which toys we like to play with, as long as we keep working within a system that systematically excludes us from decisions about the shape of our lives or the technologies we must choose.

The space we've opened up in Critical Mass is a good beginning. Out of it must grow the organic communities that can envision and then fight for a radically different organization of life itself! We will never shop our way to a liberated society. So questions of utopia lurk beneath the Critical Mass experience. What kind of life would you like to live, if you could choose? What of all the work that this society imposes on us, is work worth doing? What kind of technologies do we need? What direction do we want science to go (e.g. do we want to dedicate millions to military "defense" and a space program, or shall science address the basic research associated with redesigning cities, transit and energy systems, etc.)? Why do we live in a "democracy" in which serious questions such as these are never discussed, and if they are, only in remote academic journals and around the occasional kitchen table? Why is politics primarily a detached and meaningless ritual of popularity and money?

In general our culture is quite retarded when it comes to politics: genuine arguments are greeted with horror and discomfort because the antagonists aren't being "nice"

open mind, and good will, and reject the easy ideological clichés. Life is very different these days, but not nearly as different as we would like it to be, and certainly not different in the ways that would make for an equitable, enjoyable, ecological and fulfilling human life for all of us.

10 ways a city can promote bicycling

1. Exempt bicycles from obeying stop signs (especially 4-way) when the bike is the only vehicle approaching an intersection.
2. Fix pot holes that form in the space between where cars drive and the side of the road. These road blemishes force bikes to choose between veering into traffic and ruining their tires or crashing.
3. Require companies or neighboring clusters of businesses to provide a space for employees who bike to work to shower and change clothes.
4. Paint designated bike lanes on main bike routes that are clear of parked cars' opening doors. If necessary, eliminate car parking on one side of the road and have a 2-way bike lane on that side.
5. Install bicycle-responsive triggers that actually work to help bikes get across busy streets when there is no other cross-traffic to trigger the light.
6. Smooth out curb cuts to prevent flat tires.
7. Provide adequate, functional bike parking throughout the city. Simple posts are fine—spare us the complicated contraptions.
8. Stipulate that mass transit agencies such as buses, trains, and subways must accommodate bikes, at all hours of the day.
9. Ticket vehicles that endanger bicyclists, for example, by stopping or parking in a bike lane or cutting off a cyclist.
10. Encourage high-density, mixed-use development that enables bicyclists to easily



for the most part would be happier if the police stayed home and don't want to deal with police one way or the other -- they neither want to fight the cops nor submit to them. In general we've always sought to ignore the police, since we are merely using the city's roads to go where we're going, just like any other commuter or traveler. Our flouting of traffic norms (essentially red lights and stop signs) was designed to ensure the safety of the mass of bicyclists AND that of the isolated motorist who unexpectedly and suddenly finds herself surrounded by hundreds of boisterous bicyclists in what can be an intimidating experience. We also run lights and stop signs to keep moving and bring the minor traffic delay to an end that much



sooner, since individual motorists are not our enemy.

The tension provided by police attention has been an attraction to some Massers and a disincentive to others. In any case it, and our varied responses to it, have shaped our political culture. I, for one, hate it when the police cheerfully welcome us to our own event, as though they thought it up and were providing it to us as a service! Their presence insults me, but the police are not the issue. If I let my opposition to state authority tilt my CM participation towards engaging in antagonistic encounters with the police, they win! The police crave recognition, and the one thing that really gets their goat is to be ignored. I've seen this again and again during the years of Critical Masses -- the police go out of their way to

reason to impose that on Critical Mass, certainly not every time.

We conceived Critical Mass to be a new kind of political space, not about PROTESTING but about CELEBRATING our vision of preferable alternatives, most obviously in this case bicycling over the car culture. Importantly we wanted to build on the strong roots of humor, disdain for authority, decentralization, and self-direction that characterize our local political cultural history. Critical Mass descends from the anti-nuke movement as much as it does from the bicycling initiatives of the past. It is as much street theater as it is a (semi-)functional commute, or at least it has been at its best. It is inherently anti-corporate even though there are more uncritical

supporters of the American Empire and its monied interests riding along than there are blazing subversives, which is just another of the many pleasant ironies of Critical Mass.

The Bicycle itself embodies the counter-technological tradition that is the flipside of America's infatuation with technological fixes. Like the pro-solar movement in the 1970s, today's bike advocates tend to view the bicycle as something that is inherently superior, that brings about social changes all by itself, endowing it with causal qualities that ought to be reserved for human beings. I am a daily bike commuter, have been for most of the past 20 years, and am very fond of bicycling in cities. I greatly appreciate the bicycle for its functionality in short-circuiting dominant social relations, but let's not forget that it is merely

is a good beginning. Out of it must grow the organic communities that can envision and then fight for a radically different organization of life itself! We will never shop our way to a liberated society. So questions of utopia lurk beneath the Critical Mass experience. what kind of life would you like to live, if you could choose? What of all the work that this society imposes on us, is work worth doing? What kind of technologies do we need? What direction do we want science to go (e.g. do we want to dedicate millions to military "defense" and a space program, or shall science address the basic research associated with redesigning cities, transit and energy systems, etc.)? Why do we live in a "democracy" in which serious questions such as these are never discussed, and if they are, only in remote academic journals and around the occasional kitchen table? Why is politics primarily a detached and meaningless ritual of popularity and money?

In general our culture is quite retarded when it comes to politics: genuine arguments are greeted with horror and discomfort because the antagonists aren't being "nice." Substantive disagreements regularly descend into personality squabbles wherein the real issues are quickly lost beneath the heated rhetoric of personal contempt. Most people seem to think politics is about elections and governments rather than the day-to-day compromises we have to make with each other to live. By that way of thinking, many Critical Massers on both sides of the question have concluded that Critical Mass is "apolitical" either because it eschews demands, lobbying, and policy declarations, or because it is celebratory and fun and not confrontational and angry.

Critical Mass is one of the MOST POLITICAL events of this depressing decade; its lack of formal leaders or agenda has opened it up for everyone to claim it for their own demands and desires. It has no further purpose than its continued existence, which in itself is an affirmation of communities that are otherwise invisible and easily ignored. How the newly self-discovered communities within Critical Mass evolve into more contestational political movements remains to be seen, and is a

clusters of businesses to provide a space for employees who bike to work to shower and change clothes.

4. Paint designated bike lanes on main bike routes that are clear of parked cars' opening doors. If necessary, eliminate car parking on one side of the road and have a 2-way bike lane on that side.

5. Install bicycle-responsive triggers that actually work to help bikes get across busy streets when there is no other cross-traffic to trigger the light.

6. Smooth out curb cuts to prevent flat tires.

7. Provide adequate, functional bike parking throughout the city. Simple posts are fine—spare us the complicated contraptions.

8. Stipulate that mass transit agencies such as buses, trains, and subways must accomodate bikes, at all hours of the day.

9. Ticket vehicles that endanger bicyclists, for example, by stopping or parking in a bike lane or cutting off a cyclist.

10. Encourage high-density, mixed-use development that enables bicylists to easily meet most everyday needs without having to make long, dangerous journeys.



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Critical Mass Enrages Corporate Rulers

Excerpted from an article by Max Anger

...In San Francisco's July 25 Critical Mass bike ride, more than 5,000 bicyclists ignored a ludicrous agreement between SF Mayor Willie Brown's stooge, Supervisor Michael Yaki, and servile SF Bicycle Coalition members and disrupted automobile urbanism in the Financial District. It was a defeat for Brown, for sell-out bike-liberals, for the cops, and for the business interests who control them all. Our action also exposed the police function of the corporate news media; bourgeois journalists' sham of objectivity evaporated in a torrent of lies, all deploring the "fiasco" and "mess" we caused for yuppies whose race to get their sport-utility vehicles stuck in normal freeway traffic was delayed for 30 minutes...

...What subservient souls decry about Critical Mass are its most vital features: its

2nd International Encuentro: For Humanity, Against Neoliberalism

In late July 4,000 people attended the Second International Encounter For Humanity and Against Neoliberalism held in Spain. Below we reprint excerpts of a report issued from the working groups: "Work and the Means of Production" and "Creating Conditions for a Life with Dignity"

I. Introduction

We came together to help make a world of dignity and justice and well-being for all humanity. This should include the dignified, democratic participation of us all, women and men, in producing the material things we need, redistributing the wealth, raising our children, and taking care of each other. But neoliberal capitalism offers us misery and exploitation so that to work is to create the chains of poverty and subservience for most of us and wealth for a few.

II. Work

1. Changing North/South/East Relations

Today, there are similarities and differences in the forms of exploitation between north and south. The similarities are increasing, but there remain old forms of imperialism which are now being renewed by neoliberalism. Neoliberalism stimulates both development and underdevelopment in both north and south, so that we find the north in the south and the south in the north. Additionally, the workers in the east are now being prepared for various forms of exploitation by northern corporations. Workers in the north do not fundamentally benefit from imperialism -- it is the ruling class and the transnational corporations, and particularly speculative financial capital, that benefit -- but there is a lot of complexity and inequality in relations between the working class in the north and the working class in the south. Workers in every part of the world lose under neoliberalism, but the workers in the south lose more.

At this most recent phase of world capitalist development, in both north and south slavery increases, as well as many forms of work that are semi-slavery, such as debt bondage, child labor, forced prostitution, prison labor and workfare. In free trade

demands correspond to many sectors, needs and aspirations; and to ensure they embody a principle of human liberation. We must therefore be sure that reductions in work in one place are not at the expense of work in another. We can also develop principles that

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Neoliberalism depends on increased exploitation of the unwaged and more unpaid work from everyone. Unpaid work includes all the work traditionally done by women in the home to raise children, make men ready for work outside the home, nurse the sick, care for the elderly, and maintain the domestic economy.

distinguish between projects imposed from the top or outside by capitalism, and those from the bottom and inside, from the people.

The struggle to reduce capitalist work allows more time to struggle against capital and more time to develop alternative ways to produce, live and redistribute domestic chores. We simultaneously demand higher

Corporate Rulers

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...What subservient souls decry about Critical Mass are its most vital features; its confrontational character and its highly effective anarchistic form, without leaders or representative figures to be co-opted by capital and the state. An absence of formal organization is not always a good thing, but here spontaneity functions well. Several thousand people took direct collective action against oppressive social relations without voting or groveling to bureaucrats. On that beautiful Friday evening we experienced solidarity and real community, unlike the atomization and defeat imposed by wage slavery and the market economy.

Since I have no respect for law or morality of any kind, I don't see this issue in moral terms; it's not a question of virtuous hippies on bikes versus evil car drivers. I don't exaggerate the significance of bikes. Working class and poor people in particular have had automobile use forced on them by social engineering imposed by business interests; it has become hard to exist in this society without a car. But I feel nothing but contempt for people who identify with their role as car owners and whine about their supposed persecution by Critical Mass.

The automobile is the most murderous technological construct in history, not an imaginary problem or a disaster in the future, but as J.G. Ballard wrote in the introduction to his novel *Crash*, a pandemic cataclysm institutionalized in all industrial societies that

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2. Many Faces of Work

Capitalists try to reduce all of human life to work and consumption in the market. Capitalist work is thus exploitation, so that the demand for capitalist work is the demand to be exploited. Many ways are used to force us into this exploitation. However, to work as humans is to produce and reproduce our conditions of life and means to relate with each other. The human way to work is not of competing atomistic individuals, but of social individuals working in cooperative, dignified,



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Neoliberalism depends on increased exploitation of the unwaged and more unpaid work from everyone. Unpaid work includes all the work traditionally done by women in the home to raise children, make men ready for work outside the home, nurse the sick, care for the elderly, and reproduce the entire domestic sphere. It includes unpaid forced overtime, time spent looking for work, and labor obligations for landlords and local political bosses. Neoliberalism also blurs the distinction between waged work and semi-slavery by imposing flex-time, on-call labor, self-employment, working at home -- all ways in which the whole life is, like in slavery, reduced to work for capital.

III. Struggles and Alternatives: Reducing Work Time and Creating Non-Capitalist Work

Struggles to reduce capitalist work time,



distinguish between projects imposed from the top or outside by capitalism, and those from the bottom and inside, from the people.

The struggle to reduce capitalist work allows more time to struggle against capital and more time to develop alternative ways to produce, live and redistribute domestic chores. We simultaneously demand higher wages and equalization of wages, between men and women, citizens and migrants, north and south, different kinds of workers, and races. The struggle to reduce work time for capital is a struggle not only of the waged workers, but also of the unwaged workers, the millions of farmers and peasants, students, unemployed, elderly, housewives and indigenous of the world. For example, a well in a village could mean the reduction of arduous work by men and women. When we reduce work time, we must ensure the equal distribution of the work that we decide needs to be done. While we reduce work time, we must insist on conditions that ensure dignity and health for the work that remains to be done.

A guaranteed income assuring life with dignity for all residents of nation is also right. We say residents because this right belongs to migrants as well as citizens: we all have rights to inherit the wealth and knowledge that are products of centuries of collective human activity. This right is independent of requirement to work for capital. Income without work can also be gained through various struggles such as occupying houses or land, reappropriations, and refusing to pay for services.

In the south, and in some places of the north, rights to land, water, and other means of agricultural production are essential to life



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Any mass collective action outside of and against the corporate order enrages our rulers—and can become a lightning rod for the discontents of a repressive alienating system. The cops are walking around with bruises on their butts. They're running scared—how could they ticket or arrest thousands of combative bicyclists? Willie Brown better get Harrison Ford and Batman to help him out. We've proven we can take the streets—and there's nothing he can do about it.

For full text contact: *The Poor, the Bad and the Angry*, POB 3305, Oakland, CA 94609.

the demand for capitalist work is the demand to be exploited. Many ways are used to force us into this exploitation. However, to work as humans is to produce and reproduce our conditions of life and means to relate with each other. The human way to work is not of competing atomistic individuals, but of social individuals working in cooperative, dignified,



and democratic arrangements. The question of human work therefore opens the political question of direct democracy from below to determine the production and reproduction of our lives. However, we must all live, and to live today it often requires that we participate in one of the many forms of capitalist work.

Today, neoliberal capital uses every kind of work in its efforts to suck profit out of the lives of people. Much of the work in the world, perhaps that of half the people of the world, is done in ways that are not directly or immediately part of the market. This comprises mostly forms of agricultural work and life, but also includes the many areas of the informal economy. The rule of money finds ways to exploit this work, make profit from it, and to bring it under market control.

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In the south, and in some places of the north, rights to land, water, and other means of agricultural production are essential to life with dignity and the creation of just societies. These rights must not be limited by requirements to produce for the capitalist market.

Creating alternative spaces for production and social life is good in itself because these spaces enable relations that are outside of and beyond the market. They also can put limits to capitalist expansion and support creation of spaces in which struggles can grow and be protected. We can learn through this how to create many visions of ways to organize our lives and production. The satisfaction of needs outside of direct control of the capitalist market enables us to fight capital on a terrain that is more favorable to us. These forms of alternatives can develop out of traditional forms of work, but some traditional forms involve exploitation and also must be abolished. Many forms of third sector work (supposedly depending neither on the market nor the state) are not true alternatives to capitalist work, but instead are a new form of lower-waged capitalist work.

to control land and the means of production, and to build alternative ways to produce and reproduce our life can unite diverse people against the inhuman vampire called neoliberal capital. We recognize that to survive we engage in many particular struggles over immediate issues, but when linked these struggles can open the door to wider and deeper struggles.

We need therefore to develop principles with which we can analyze our struggles to see if they put us in a better position to overcome the inhuman way of life we are forced into, whether they reduce hierarchies and create wider spaces of shared democratic participants. Some of these principles include: to reduce the risk of being co-opted by capital; to ensure that our struggles and

US CIGGIE COMPANIES VIE FOR FRESH BLOOD

By Jennifer

*Note: Slanted for your protection.

Hey, smokers! If you thought you were highly profitable to the Big US. Cigarette Companies, think again. In fact, you're small change compared to the hot new markets in developing countries, where laws are lax and the global economy beckons.

That's right, Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds, and B.A.T., makers of Lucky Strikes, are working hard to bring many impoverished folks around the world fresh, quality cigarettes, the only legal product around that is harmful when used as intended. Cuba, China, Poland, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brazil, Kazakstan, Russia, Portugal...the list of affected countries bleeds on and on. And it seems the Big Cigarette Companies collective efforts are paying off. The World Health Organization (WHO) confirms this with the staggering figures of 1.1 billion people over the age of 15 addicted to cigarettes, and 72 per cent of them are in developing and underdeveloped countries, to use their terminology. So even though US. consumption of cigarettes has fallen (the number has dropped 17 per cent in the last decade), you don't have to worry about those Big Ciggie Companies. They can sleep well tonight, knowing that the global market (and global lives) is safely in their control.

Here are some horrendous facts to wet your whistle of indignation: In this year's first quarter, international sales accounted for 71 per cent of Philip Morris' total tobacco sales of 9.9 billion. Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds, and British American Tobacco, the Big Three in industry parlance, account for a full third of



the 5.5 trillion cigarettes sold annually worldwide. The Big Three's exports rose 259 per cent in the last decade. So how does this translate into human lives? Vietnam has the highest male smoking rate in the world, with 72.8 per cent. In the Philippines, 73 per cent of adults smoke, and 50 percent of children aged 7-17 are addicted to cigarettes. In Japan, 50 per cent of adult men smoke: the highest rate among developed nations. Among Japanese women, the number is 35 per cent: also extremely high. And what about deaths? The WHO places the number of deaths from cigarettes at 3 million annually.

Of course this assault has not come without its backlash. Many countries have moved to place trade or ad restrictions on US. cigarettes. That tactic does not last long,

however. US. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, at the behest (or at the beck and call, rather) of the major cigarette companies, has seen to that. Representative Barshefsky has wielded the mighty carrot of economic prosperity and the fearful stick of economic ruin over the heads of the mostly impoverished countries, and they can but cower under the threat that they will be run over in the global market. Plus, if these countries ever do pass laws restricting US. cigarettes in any way, they are severely reprimanded by Rep. Barshefsky for violating free trade agreements.

If you think the new global tobacco deal is going to change any of this (and I don't insult your intelligence enough to believe you do), guess again. Firstly, although it is being

touted as a global measure, in fact there's nothing global about it. The US. companies will be as free to do their profiteering off of death and misery in other countries as they were before this proposed agreement. The facts of this new deal are so egregious that it prompted tobacco control advocates from 19 countries to release a joint statement condemning the spineless American deal as unethical, since it does nothing to address international tobacco control issues. Indeed, it makes it even more desirable in terms of profits and lax restrictions to market to other countries, a situation that will happen even if the agreement does not go through.

I wish I could end this article with an optimistic ring for the future, but obviously there is nothing optimistic about the continued rampage of the Big Three into other countries. They will continue to reach for fresh hordes of disposable people with no disposable income, and will keep on ripping their last cents away as these adults and children suffer through the throes of nicotine addiction. Can you say Nuremberg Standards? If you can, then you should apply them here. Taking orders from the mighty God of Profits and killing millions of innocent people in the process should not be sanctioned by anyone, and this phenomenon should not go unpunished, though it undoubtedly will.

Free Trade in Action:

Disney Contractor Pulls Out of Haiti

H.H. Cutler, the largest manufacturer of

BOOK REVIEW: "WHERE WOMEN

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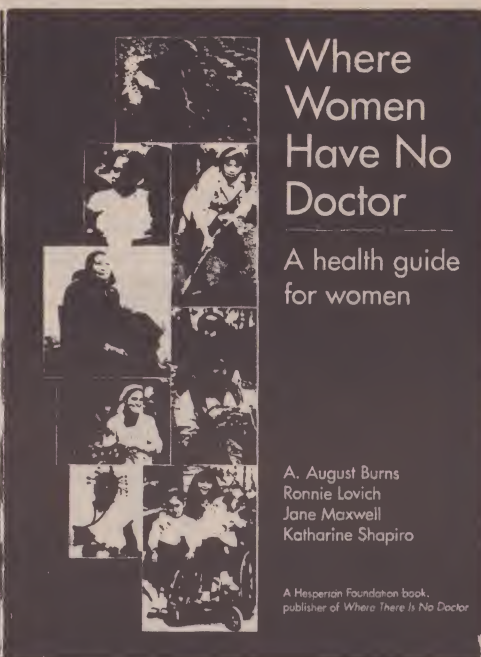
BOOK REVIEW: "WHERE WOMEN HAVE NO DOCTOR"

by A. August Burns, Ronnie Lovich, Jane Maxwell and Katharine Shapiro
Hesperian Foundation

review by Barbara.

"Where Women Have No Doctor," is a health guide for women that has as its audience both lay health care workers and women who need information on their own health care when they can't easily access "modern medicine."

It is written in a lower literacy, easy-to-follow format with multiple illustrations inclusive of many races, body sizes and disabilities. The book often begins chapters with a story or case study, then follows with discussion on the case study and practical approaches to women's health in this given topic. One such story is "Mira's Story," a 2-page piece about a woman who dies from cervical cancer. The chapter challenges readers to question what caused Mira's death. Did Mira die because she didn't know she should get a regular pap smear to detect cervical cancer before it was too late? Or did Mira die because when she first began to feel pain, her husband forbid her to seek medical care, in other words because Mira lacked power because she was a woman? Did Mira die because when she finally did seek medical care, the health worker wasn't knowledgeable about women's health problems and sent Mira away with an ineffective cream? Or did Mira die



community worked together to make child birth in their village safer for all. Two other stories talk about a woman and a couple who couldn't conceive children and how they dealt with this.

"Where Women Have No Doctor" gives information to women on topics such as: how to decide whether an abortion (legal or not) will be safe, pregnancy and childbirth, sexual assault, infertility, mental health from a

worker should transport a patient to more highly skilled medical care.

It seems the only notable exception to this book's inclusiveness is its omission of talking about lesbianism and homosexuals in general. The topic is touched upon briefly when discussing gender roles in society and how, often, lesbians fall outside of these acceptable roles in many cultures. Discussions on lesbian health and lifestyle are, however, noticeably missing.

But aside from this omission, "Where Women Have No Doctor" is a wonderful book which can be both read cover to cover or simply kept as a reference tool. Information contained in this book is useful for lay health workers, women in other parts of the world, or women right here in the Bay Area looking for information on their own health or the global health of women and how it can be improved.

"Where Women Have No Doctor" is published by the Hesperian Foundation, 1919 Addison St., Suite 304, Berkeley, CA 94704, (510) 845-4507. ISBN 0-942364-25-2. 583 pages. \$20.00.

Free Trade in Action:

Disney Contractor Pulls Out of Haiti

H.H. Cutler, the largest manufacturer of Disney clothing in Haiti, announced on July 17 that it will pull all production out of Haiti. The National Labor Committee of New York claims Cutler will relocate to China, where wages are approximately 13 cents an hour, as opposed to Haiti, where the minimum wage is 28 cents, but where a living wage is at least double that amount. 2300 workers, mainly women, will be left jobless. One woman worker interviewed at a bus stop said "If I lose my job, I might die, but I'm half-dead already".

Cutler blames the pullback on slumping sales of Disney children's clothing, but Disney and Cutler have been targets of a worldwide campaign protesting starvation wages and miserable working conditions. Human rights organizations will be unable to monitor Cutler production in China. Cutler had previously moved most production out of its home base in Grand Rapids, MI, to relocate to Haiti. It thus follows the path of Nike, which moved production from the U.S. to Korea and now to Indonesia, Viet Nam and China.

To protest this textbook example of "free trade" in action, and to ask Cutler to stay in Haiti and pay a living wage, write to:

Tom Austin, President	Michael Eisner, CEO
H.H. Cutler	Walt Disney Company
120 Iona Avenue SW	500 South Buena Vista
Grand Rapids, MI 49503	Burbank, CA 91521

The Magic Kingdom

and its dungeon

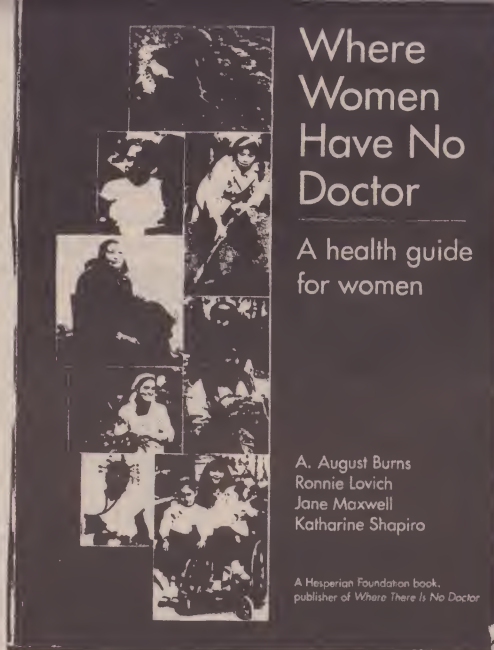
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Other stories in "Where Women Have No Doctor" talk about women who have made positive changes in their communities. In Zimbabwe, for example, the Musasa Project was created to help women who are victims of violence. Another story, written in the first person, talks about the narrator's friend who died during child birth and how women in her



community worked together to make child birth in their village safer for all. Two other stories talk about a woman and a couple who couldn't conceive children and how they dealt with this.

"Where Women Have No Doctor" gives information to women on topics such as: how to decide whether an abortion (legal or not) will be safe, pregnancy and childbirth, sexual assault, infertility, mental health from a community point of view, female circumcision, how to make sure your water supply is not contaminated, and a section on women with disabilities. It has much to offer women in places where there are doctors as well. For example, it has suggestions on how to talk with your partner about safer sex, information on various birth control options, a chapter on sexual harassment, easy to understand material on STDs, and what to expect during a pelvic exam.

This book also has a great deal of pertinent information for health workers. It includes everything from how to give an injection, to various medications and their recommended doses, to how to tell if a fetus is positioned correctly for birth. It also gives clear indications or signs for when a health

worker should transport a patient to more highly skilled medical care.

It seems the only notable exception to this book's inclusiveness is its omission of talking about lesbianism and homosexuals in general. The topic is touched upon briefly when discussing gender roles in society and how, often, lesbians fall outside of these acceptable roles in many cultures. Discussions on lesbian health and lifestyle are, however, noticeably missing.

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To protest this textbook example of "free trade" in action, and to ask Cutler to stay in Haiti and pay a living wage, write to:

Tom Austin, President	Michael Eisner, CEO
H.H. Cutler	Walt Disney Company
120 Iona Avenue SW	500 South Buena Vista
Grand Rapids, MI 49503	Burbank, CA 91521





Blurbs of Revolt

Chinese Workers Fight Back

In early July over 4000 workers at the Mianyang Silk Printing Factory in Sichuan province took to the streets after their factory went bankrupt and managers stole their unemployment money. Workers built barricades and blocked traffic for two days before their action was crushed by police. In March 20,000 textile workers in Nanchong besieged city hall for 30 hours before their demand for payment of back wages was met. For the past five years the number of strikes in China has increased dramatically. In the first half of '96 there were 4000 strike actions. This year the number of labor disputes has increased by 59%. Job securities that had existed under the previous socialist (state capitalist) system are rapidly being eroded as China integrates with the rest of world capital. Strikes are banned in China and unions are strictly controlled by the Communist Party. Chinese workers can expect more hardship. Last month president Jiang Zemin promised massive layoffs as China privatizes most of its state owned industry.

3,000 Italians Hijack Train to Amsterdam

turning the city "into a sea of red and black." A section of the march, which coincided with a meeting of European Union leaders, turned over a police bus, broke bank windows and battled police. Several days before, the Summit authorities decided to remove the remaining European Union flags after three-quarters of them had been stolen. It seems that several local squatter bars had offered free beers for each captured flag. Attending the march were several thousand Italians who had taken over trains in Rome and Milan. "We demanded free transportation" and to be able "to pass through different countries without revealing our identity, this was an act of solidarity with undocumented workers and to assert our right to free circulation as individuals." Marchers were protesting austerity measures imposed by states to qualify for the European single currency.

Police Murder Sparks Nashville Riot

Nashville, TN: On August 10, hundreds of angry people threw rocks and bottles at police after they shot to death Leon Fisher. Fisher, a 23 year old Black man, was being chased by the cops for speeding when he pulled into a housing project. According to witnesses he

shot by Sgt. Randy Hickerson who is white. Hours later police returned to find a nearby Dollar General Store looted and in flames.

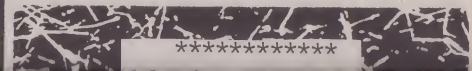
German Cops raid Zine

Berlin, On June 12 print shops, private apartments, and the offices of the "Anti Racist Initiative" were raided by 500 cops attempting to find the editors of "Interim", Berlin's weekly autonomist magazine. Cops broke down doors seized 750 copies of the current issue, 16 computers, 2,000 diskettes and disassembled printing presses. Many Berliners suspect that the "entire action was designed to gain insights and overview into leftist collective houses." For the past nine years the Interim has provided autonomists in Berlin and beyond an open forum for information and discussion. This attempt to criminalize the Interim ostensibly because it "rewards and approves of criminal acts" is just the latest action of the German state against resistance media.

Lorenzo gets messed with down under

In July Lorenzo Komboa Erwin was arrested by Australian immigration police after arriving in the country for a speaking tour. Komboa, an

insurgency which left many Black Panthers dead. Under pressure from racist politician Pauline Hanson who attacked Komboa as "a known terrorist and gunrunner" who "will only incite racial hatred and violence", Prime Minister John Howard ordered him arrested and summarily deported. After his arrest immigration police slammed him head first into a wall, breaking his glasses then dragged him by the handcuffs giving him "first hand experience of what it is like to be black" in Australia where up to 1,000 Indigenous Blacks have died in jail. Komboa's lawyers appealed the deportation to the High Court, saying he had been denied his right to answer the government's allegations. In a precedent setting case, the court agreed and ordered the government to restore the visa and pay all legal costs. After his release Komboa spoke to 7,000 people at an annual indigenous celebration and was warmly received. Because of widespread racist violence against Indigenous australians, Native communities are calling for an international boycott of the 2000 Olympics to be held in Sydney.



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turning the city "into a sea of red and black." A section of the march, which coincided with a meeting of European Union leaders, turned over a police bus, broke bank windows and battled police. Several days before, the Summit authorities decided to remove the remaining European Union flags after three-quarters of them had been stolen. It seems that several local squatter bars had offered free beers for each captured flag. Attending the march were several thousand Italians who had taken over trains in Rome and Milan. "We demanded free transportation" and to be able "to pass through different countries without revealing our identity, this was an act of solidarity with undocumented workers and to assert our right to free circulation as individuals." Marchers were protesting austerity measures imposed by states to qualify for the European single currency.

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insurgency which left many Black Panthers dead. Under pressure from racist politician Pauline Hanson who attacked Komboa as "a known terrorist and gunrunner" who "will only incite racial hatred and violence", Prime Minister John Howard ordered him arrested and summarily deported. After his arrest immigration police slammed him head first into a wall, breaking his glasses then dragged him by the handcuffs giving him "first hand experience of what it is like to be black" in Australia where up to 1,000 Indigenous Blacks have died in jail. Komboa's lawyers appealed the deportation to the High Court, saying he had been denied his right to answer the government's allegations. In a precedent setting case, the court agreed and ordered the government to restore the visa and pay all legal costs. After his release Komboa spoke to 7,000 people at an annual indigenous celebration and was warmly received. Because of widespread racist violence against Indigenous australians, Native communities are calling for an international boycott of the 2000 Olympics to be held in Sydney.

blurbs by clyde

Shame on Job Corps union busters IWW organizing drive faces repression in Drum, PA

by Alexis Buss

Student employees of the Keystone Job Corps Center in Drums, Pennsylvania started an Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) organizing drive on June 9th, 1997. The Job Corps recruits young people aged 16-24 who are interested in job training, getting a GED,

or receiving a college diploma. Largely working class, these young people turn to Job Corps in an effort to secure a better future for themselves. But when they arrive at the Job Corps Center, recruits often find that they have been lied to about conditions, are subject to harsh restrictions on leaving the campus or

expressing their civil rights, and can even be neglected by the infirmary to the point where their lives are endangered. Keystone Job Corps Center is managed by a private company called Management Training Corporation, but the young people in Job Corps are defined as employees of the federal government in their handbook.

On June 26, 1997, the Keystone Job Corps Center suspended two of the union drive's most vocal supporters, Matt Wilson and Joe Marra, for 10 days pending final termination

A call for Participants: Active Resistance '98 - Toronto

In 1996, Chicago hosted Active Resistance, a political gathering of 750 anarchist and revolutionary activists from throughout the hemisphere. This summer, activists in Toronto, Canada, the most multicultural city in North America, announced that they would host Active Resistance '98. Following are words from the communiqué requesting participation:

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Free Radio IWW at Keystone

On August 23, the kind folks at Radio Mutiny, WPPR (West Philly Pirate Radio), came together with the IWW to help us fan the flames of discontent inside of Keystone.

Our mobile transmitter was packed up into a van, and we headed out to Drums, PA from West Philly. Our broadcast started around 9:45 pm. We called in to the dorms at Keystone (had arranged this earlier) and several people on the inside had smuggled in fliers which they quickly distributed. Pretty soon, everybody on the Center had their ear to the radio listening to our broadcast which included us reading from the banned issues of the local paper "The Standard-Speaker", testimony from a friend of a young woman almost killed by the infirmary staff, a story from Solidarity Forever, a bit from the Dario Fo play Mistero Buffo, and an excerpt from Matt Wilson's termination hearing. Plus lots of music: Last Poets, Rage Against the Machine, Utah Phillips, Public Enemy, Meat Beat Manifesto, Cypress Hill, Rhythm Activism, Funkadelic, Nine Inch Nails.

So we get about halfway into our broadcast (had 100 minutes of tape - all our battery can handle) and in pull the cops. Job Corps had sent around their security (Keystone Cops!?) to find us - we were in our usual spot at the only pay phone in Drums, PA. The cops took a look at our rig and asked us if it was a bomb. They were worried because we were right outside of a post office (geez, if I

wanted to take a post office - why the hell waste my time on Drums' which probably has all of 8 letters inside?). Anyway, after some dithering around, we told them what it was and they didn't really know what to do with us. They had no jurisdiction and weren't really sure if it was illegal anyway. Sometime during all of this, a reporter from the Standard Speaker showed up and I did a quick interview. The cops talked to the pizza place, the proprietors of which had no problem with us being there (this is the regular IWW hangout while we wait for our people to be terminated, harassed, or sometimes released into our care.) So, the cops asked us to leave once it closed. They recommended that after pizza place closed that we move to the parking lot of a nearby Dunkin' Donuts (yes, they really did.) When they found out it was the IWW, they said, "Oh! IWW - why didn't you just say so!" because we've gained a little reputation out there - I dealt with the one cop before when Matt & Joe first got terminated. So, IWW is notorious in Drums, PA.

We took it mobile when the pizza place closed and circled the Keystone Center a few times. The Keystone Coppers followed us around for most of that stint. Don't know what they hoped to accomplish by that.

The people on the inside were very happy to hear our broadcast. A few of the residential advisors called up to wish us well and tell us how energized it made everyone feel.



after an investigation. The reason was clear: Job Corps wants to have total, unchecked control over their wage-earning students. Joe was accused of "inciting a riot" by management while signing up a fellow worker. Matt was told he was harassing students, although no students had complained about him. Both were told that they were employees of the federal government 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and were not permitted to organize on company time. On the final signed report, the reason for their suspension was "Inappropriate behavior that poses a threat to self or others."

The IWW demands that Job Corps immediately reinstate its organizers and calls for a no-tolerance policy in Job Corps for union busting.

Please call the Job Corps at 1-800-762-7288 and demand immediate reinstatement for Matt & Joe and an end to harassment of student employees at the Keystone Job Corps Center:

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Next summer will be ripe for a creative, fun, culturally diverse, queer positive, Native-solidarity, pro-feminist, youth-friendly, political-prisoner-supportive, labour-aligned, anti-poverty, ecologically-minded gathering of anarchist and revolutionary activists in August '98 to take action against neoconservatism, neoliberalism, and all other forms of oppression in Toronto, North America, and around the world. All anarchists, revolutionary activists and their friends and allies are welcome to join in this coming August. Please send information requests, organizing and outreach ideas, workshop topics, fundraising and activity suggestions, contact addresses, political statements, letters of endorsement and structural comments to:

Active Resistance '98
Toronto Planning Crew
PO Box 108 Station P
Toronto Canada M5S 2S8
<resist@tao.ca>





Genetic engineering: Playing with the stuff of life

Continued from page 1

seeds or save them for next year's planting. Monsanto inspects its customers' farms for violations.

Monsanto expects that its sales of Roundup will increase to \$4 billion per year in 5 years. By early next century, Monsanto fully expects to be THE source of the world's food, and is doing whatever it takes to make its dream come true. Other agribiz/biotech corporations are desperately fighting for "their share."

Who Will Pay for these Profits?

The "Third World" countries will pay the highest price, first as the unpaid sources for the genes that are being spliced into the new mega-profitable patented crops, and again as they are made more and more dependent on big agribusiness. Small farmers in all countries can see their extinction on the horizon. It may be that, after cross-pollination occurs and spreads, and after the drifting of ever-increasing clouds of crop-dusted pesticides kill off all non-resistant crops, only patented crops will be able to grow. Only giant agribusiness concerns will be able to afford the patented seeds and accompanying pesticides that allow these crops to flourish, and the only way to get food will be to get in line at the agribusiness foodstand.

"The needs of corporate interests do not reflect the needs of people. The alternative to

pesticides and herbicides, such reports have been greatly exaggerated by PR firms receiving mega-bucks from agribusiness. It's notable that many times more research is being done on ways to use greater quantities of highly toxic chemicals than on "less-toxic" methods.

Boo-boos and Surprises

What has reached the market so far is only the start of an onslaught of products, as biotech companies rush to cash in on their patented products and to develop more. In April, one mistake that supposedly "could never happen because of tight quality control and regulations" came to light: Monsanto had to recall some seed that contained an incorrect gene which had been inserted by accident. Research done in Denmark has shown that genetically-manipulated genes in crops can make their way into nearby weeds under field conditions. In this way, "genetic errors can propagate into the environment and permanently alter the natural world in ways that no one is prepared to understand" (Peter

Montague, Rachel, s Environment and Health Weekly, #549).

Another surprise is the speed with which insects are meeting the challenge of bio-engineering through their capacity to mutate. It had been hoped that bio-engineering toxins into crops would repel insects without need for external application of pesticides, but the insects turn out to be more than equal to the threat, adapting in one generation to toxins that were supposed to fend them off for four generations.

There are effective non-toxic ways to deal with weeds and insects, but since the industry can't get rich off them, they are not likely to get much respect from agribusiness.

Other Countries Fight US Agribusiness

Meeting at its World Congress in Geneva on April 15-18, the International Union of Food and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF) threw the weight of its 320 affiliated unions in 112 countries behind a call for a ban on gene-altered foods.

Egypt is proposing an import ban on transgenic (genetically-altered) foods, but because of US pressure has agreed to suspend it for three months.

European Union (EU) members have stated for years that they do not want bio-engineered food. Since their protests were ignored by US agribusiness, their next demand was that bio-engineered food must be labeled. However, they are finding that the US does not intend to comply, because "separating the sources of crops is not economically feasible."

In June, major US agribiz companies signed a letter to President Clinton urging him to threaten the European Union with sanctions in order to force genetically modified crops on the European market. The letter instructs the President that the EU's objections are based on emotions, not science, and clearly states "that segregation of bulk commodities is not scientifically justified and is economically unrealistic."

Regulatory authorities in European countries such as the UK, Austria, Luxembourg and Denmark objected to the approval of transgenic maize (corn) because of the possible spread of antibiotic resistance. However they were overruled by the EU Commission under massive pressure from the USA.

The Clinton administration is guilty of collusion in this money-grabbing scheme, force-feeding bio-engineering to the world by promoting it as another "end to world hunger."



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"The needs of corporate interests do not reflect the needs of people. The alternative to prolonged shelf life and long-distance trade is not the reengineering of fruits and vegetables. The alternative is to reduce 'food miles'. Cuba, for example, has used the crisis of the US trade embargo to create thousands of urban organic gardens to meet the vegetable needs of each city from within its municipal limits.

"Long distance transport for basic food stuffs which could be grown locally serves the interests of global agribusiness, not the small farmer."

—Dr. Vandana Shiva, ecofeminist, physicist and philosopher

So What's Wrong with Frankenfoods, Anyway?

Because of lack of testing, there will be currently unforeseen consequences on human and animal health. We do know that people with food allergies will soon not be able to tell if the vegetable or the food product they are buying contains genes from something they are allergic to.

One imminent result from a new product already on the market, "Maximizer" corn, which contains a gene resistant to the antibiotic ampicillin, is the increased spread of antibiotic resistance into animals and humans. (Antibiotic resistance makes these sometimes-crucial drugs ineffective.) Other probable consequences include increased strain on immune systems, more new diseases, and increased cancer rates.

"Already infectious diseases are on a global rebound, killing thousands more and evolving into antibiotic-resistant strains. The US death rate from infectious diseases rose 58% between 1980-1992, becoming the third-leading killer of Americans, according to the

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British activists destroy genetically engineered crop

An experimental crop of rapeseed (canola), owned by the US based biotech corporation Monsanto, has been destroyed by local residents in a "Do It Yourself" public protest at a farm near Coventry, England.

The action took place "in the interests of

"Our natural world is being tampered with for private profit. We are not prepared to see the people and plants of Staffordshire - or anywhere else in the UK - used as guinea pigs in somebody else's experiment."

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The Clinton administration is guilty of collusion in this money-grabbing scheme, force-feeding bio-engineering to the world by promoting it as another "end to world hunger," while in fact it is one of the biggest scams going today—a scam to steal the resources, control, and most probably the health of the peoples of the world.

Greenpeace activists from across Europe launched a major protest June 26, 1997, after receiving a leaked copy of a document outlining a multi-million dollar public relations campaign (led by the PR company Burson Marsteller, best known for its work for US chemical company Union Carbide after the Bhopal chemical explosion in India) to overturn public opposition to genetically manipulated crops and the food made from them. "The same companies who brought us dioxins, PCBs, DDT, CFC's and dozens of other dangerous chemicals, which have long since been banned, are now telling us genetically manipulated organisms are safe and even environmentally beneficial," Greenpeace spokesperson Marie-Jeanne Schiffrers said.

Patent laws in Brazil, India, and Argentina forbid the patenting of pharmaceuticals on the grounds that drugs are of such great importance that no one should have the right to monopolize them. Colombian researcher Dr. Manuel Patarroyo recently gave the World Health Organization exclusive royalty-free rights on an antimalaria vaccine he developed. "We wanted to do this for the benefit of humanity," he explained.

Ironically, the European attitude toward bioengineering is influenced by their history of colonialism and the taking of many resources from the "new world" without payment. They say that to now claim that such things can be patented and to require payment for their use would be contrary to their historical actions.

According to a Dutch Green Party member of the European Parliament, "Ninety percent

trade embargo to create thousands of organic gardens to meet the vegetable needs of each city from within its municipal limits.

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"Already infectious diseases are on a global rebound, killing thousands more and evolving into antibiotic-resistant strains. The US death rate from infectious diseases rose 58% between 1980-1992, becoming the third-leading killer of Americans, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. European countries have banned most US beef, poultry and dairy products because of detectable levels of drugs."

—Lee Hitchcox, D.C., "Strategies for Staying Alive," 1996.

As for reports that bioengineered crops will be able to use less pesticide or less-toxic



British activists destroy genetically engineered crop

An experimental crop of rapeseed (canola), owned by the US based biotech corporation Monsanto, has been destroyed by local residents in a "Do It Yourself" public protest at a farm near Coventry, England.

The action took place "in the interests of public safety" on the evening of Wednesday August 6 at Tibs Hall Farm, Kingsbury near Tamworth, Staffs. The genetically altered crop containing mutant DNA was uprooted from its experimental plot by people wearing protective clothing. The plants were then broken before being mixed together with 'normal' plants to invalidate the experiment's results.

In a statement issued this morning, local people said: "The mutant DNA in this crop could easily spread to the surrounding area either through cross-pollination or through virus infection. No one can guarantee that this will not happen."

"Our natural world is being tampered with for private profit. We are not prepared to see the people and plants of Staffordshire - or anywhere else in the UK - used as guinea pigs in somebody else's experiment."

Despite Monsanto's claims that their field trials of genetically engineered crops are entirely risk-free, several studies have shown that the pollen of transgenic rapeseed plants can cross-pollinate with traditional or wild species, spreading the genetic pollution.

The campaign against genetic engineering has also taken to the fields in Germany where testing is carried out. In 1996 at least 12 fields were destroyed by protesters, and action by local people stopped the planting of several more. Four fields are currently being squatted full-time by German activists determined to stop them being planted with Monsanto's herbicide-resistant sugar beet.

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According to a Dutch Green Party member of the European Parliament, "Ninety percent of the genetic resources which are used in our agricultural production come from the Third World. We have never asked if we ought to pay anything for them. And now for the biotechnology industry to demand monopoly property rights over them is utterly unjustifiable. Whether wild species or crop plants, genetic resources are the common heritage of humankind. All farmers must be guaranteed free access to them."

To take part in nation-wide October actions against genetic engineering, contact the Pure Food Campaign, 860 Highway 61, Little Marais, Minnesota 55614, (202) 775-1132 or (218) 226-4164. E-mail: alliance@mr.net

Donate to Slingshot

If you like Slingshot, send us your Money! Help us pay the \$1,300 we spent on this issue! We also need letters, articles, art and photographs. Send 'em to: 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705.

Industry Selling its Hazardous Wastes As Fertilizer



In an example of prevailing attempts to "greenwash" industries by co-opting progressive terminology, heavy industry has been selling its hazardous waste as fertilizer while claiming to be recycling byproducts. Federal regulation has made the cost of disposing of toxic waste a significant factor. A loophole in EPA regulations allows the use of industrial waste products as fertilizer, no matter what they contain. This is now a fast-growing phenomenon, saving industry millions of dollars at the expense of public health.

"It's really unbelievable what's happening, but it's true," Patty Martin, mayor of Quincy, WA, a small farming community, said. "They just call dangerous waste a product, and it's no longer a dangerous waste. It's a fertilizer."

Ingredients Not Regulated

Unlike Canada and European countries, the U.S. has a "hands-off" policy as to what can constitute "fertilizer". There are actually state programs to match up "recyclers" of toxic waste with fertilizer companies and farmers. Factories are building fertilizer plants close to their emissions control systems, to increase convenience and profitability. The resulting fertilizer needs no labeling as to the dangerous ingredients it contains. Industry representatives would like the public to believe that they are civic-minded (and smart and wise) enough to police themselves, but horror stories resulting from the use of such fertilizers indicate otherwise.

try to wash the toxics through the soil. Hardly anything grew there the next year, either.

The land belonged to Dennis DeYoung, whose family had farmed it since the early 1950s before he leased it to Schaapman. Since the land was poisoned, DeYoung couldn't make his payments, and the company that financed him foreclosed on a \$100,000 debt. DeYoung also owed Cenex money for fertilizer and seed. Soon after, Cenex bought the land from the financing company. DeYoung sued Cenex for damages for ruining the soil, lost in summary judgment but won a reversal in the State Court of Appeals earlier this year. He's preparing for a new trial.

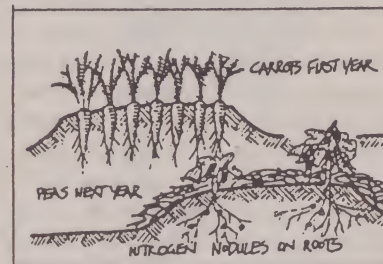
Tom Witte is a 53-year-old farmer with 200 acres and about 100 cows a few miles east of Quincy, WA. His father purchased the farm in 1956. Witte had a disastrous year in 1991, associated with the use of contaminated fertilizer. His red spring wheat, silage corn, and grain corn all yielded about one-third the normal levels. Six of his cows got sick and died. The veterinarian found cancer in the three that were tested.

Witte and DeYoung submitted hair samples to a laboratory that tests for heavy metals in human tissues. The lab found high levels of aluminum, antimony, lead, arsenic and cadmium in hair samples from DeYoung, Witte, and Witte's children.

Jaycie Giraud of Quincy, WA, said that the Giraud family, which has been farming in the

Kerr-McGee Bags Monsanto's Waste

Monsanto Corp., a major pesticide manufacturer, sold the toxic waste from its Soda Springs, ID factory as a fertilizer component for six years. In 1994, they became the first company so far to STOP, because of fear of possible liability. They are still selling some waste to Kerr-McGee, who have taken over the process of turning it into fertilizer. A Monsanto rep stated that, in effect, Kerr-McGee is being paid to take on the risk of liability. "Kerr-McGee is a pretty big company. If they have a (liability) problem, they'll probably face their problem without dragging Monsanto into it".



A Growing Phenomenon

Although a big corporation like Monsanto has seen the liability at the end of the tunnel, this phenomenon is not about to go away. It is increasing. Soil scientists report that waste brokers from metal-, cement-, paper- and wood-products companies call constantly, trying to get matched up with farmers who

"ORGANIC"

A THING OF THE PAST?

In late summer or fall, the USDA will issue its long-delayed federal regulations on organic food. Despite precise recommendations from the National Organics Standards Board (NOSB) to maintain strict organic standards -- policies basically in harmony with those advocated by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), and the European Parliament -- USDA officials have delayed as long as possible in announcing federal regulations on organics.

The main reason for the delay was agribusiness, desire to be included in the potential profits (sales of organics have increased 20% a year since 1990). Hand in glove with the agribusiness industry, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the USDA have promoted genetically engineered foods and high-chemical-input agriculture. Now the USDA finds itself in a quandary.

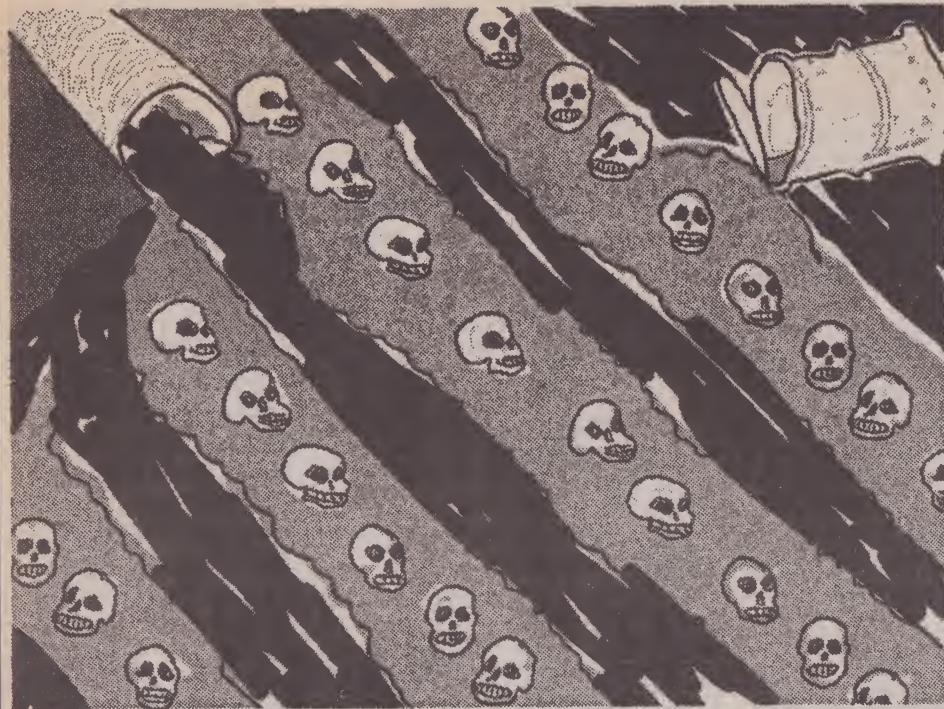
To define the word organic is to admit that a host of agribusiness practices such as pesticide use, intensive confinement of livestock, hormone injection, and genetic engineering are somehow less healthy. Yet, the USDA, FDA, and EPA have strenuously argued for years that these practices are perfectly safe. According to several inside sources in Washington who have seen the proposed rules, the USDA not only intends to disregard the NOSB's explicit ban on genetically engineered food and intensive confinement of farm animals, but will actually make it illegal for regional or non-governmental organic

of dollars at the expense of public health.

"It's really unbelievable what's happening, but it's true," Patty Martin, mayor of Quincy, WA, a small farming community, said. "They just call dangerous waste a product, and it's no longer a dangerous waste. It's a fertilizer."

Ingredients Not Regulated

Unlike Canada and European countries, the U.S. has a "hands-off" policy as to what can constitute "fertilizer". There are actually state programs to match up "recyclers" of toxic waste with fertilizer companies and farmers. Factories are building fertilizer plants close to their emissions control systems, to increase convenience and profitability. The resulting fertilizer needs no labeling as to the dangerous ingredients it contains. Industry representatives would like the public to believe that they are civic-minded (and smart and wise) enough to police themselves, but horror stories resulting from the use of such fertilizers indicate otherwise.



Consequences to Farmers

In Tifton, GA, more than 1,000 acres of peanut crops aimed for human consumption were killed by Lime Plus, a brew of hazardous waste and limestone that had been sold to unsuspecting farmers.

An Oregon farmer, Wes Behrman of Banks,

damages for ruining the soil, lost in summary judgment but won a reversal in the State Court of Appeals earlier this year. He's preparing for a new trial.

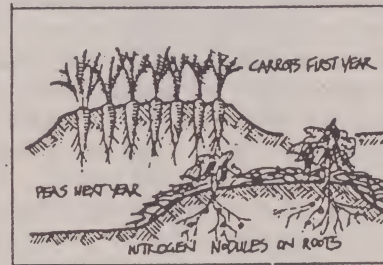
Tom Witte is a 53-year-old farmer with 200 acres and about 100 cows a few miles east of Quincy, WA. His father purchased the farm in 1956. Witte had a disastrous year in 1991, associated with the use of contaminated fertilizer. His red spring wheat, silage corn, and grain corn all yielded about one-third the normal levels. Six of his cows got sick and died. The veterinarian found cancer in the three that were tested.

Witte and DeYoung submitted hair samples to a laboratory that tests for heavy metals in human tissues. The lab found high levels of aluminum, antimony, lead, arsenic and cadmium in hair samples from DeYoung, Witte, and Witte's children.

Jaycie Giraud of Quincy, WA, said that the Giraud family, which has been farming in the

area for three generations, is now broke due to the use of toxic fertilizers. Her father-in-law, a farmer for 50 years, lost a \$1 million potato crop. Her husband and their two children, aged 7 and 14, have all developed respiratory problems that she believes are related to fertilizer products.

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A Growing Phenomenon

Although a big corporation like Monsanto has seen the liability at the end of the tunnel, this phenomenon is not about to go away. It is increasing. Soil scientists report that waste brokers from metal-, cement-, paper- and wood-products companies call constantly, trying to get matched up with farmers who will accept their waste products so that they will not have to pay to dispose of them.

Nor is it just currently produced toxics that are being cycled into fertilizer. Toxic waste from old dump sites is also making its unregulated way into fertilizer. And at one of the sites on the EPA's Superfund list, Lowry Landfill near Denver, there is a plan to send liquid waste from the site through sewage treatment and apply it to government-owned wheat farms. The EPA is considering the novel disposal plan in a pending ruling that may set a precedent for new ways to clean up Superfund sites. The official EPA fact sheet on the landfill omits the fact that the waste is radioactive.

Follow-ups and "Food Slander"

Fertilizer industry reps seem willing to admit that mistakes were made (by "scofflaws"), but seem to define mistakes as the instances in which crops or livestock were destroyed or obviously damaged. They do not seem to acknowledge that (1) poisons put into the soil will become part of the plants or (2) eating such plants will have harmful effects. They would like to deny the following:

- Toxic heavy metals build up in soil.
- Radioactivity does not go away.
- Pesticide residues have harmful effects.
- Some plants take up more or less of certain chemicals from the ground than others.
- When the plants are eaten by animals, the toxins build up and multiply in their tissues. It's

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If the USDA gets away with this in the United States, their eventual strategy will be to use the legal hammer of the GATT World Trade Organization to force European and other nations to lower their organic standards as well. This could cause serious repercussions internationally, where there is increasing opposition to genetically engineered food. "It would have a huge impact and be viewed with utter dismay by the rest of the world," says Ken Cummins, of the International Accreditation Services, part of the International Federation of Organic Movements.

NO WAY!





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An Oregon farmer, Wes Behrman of Banks, OR, won an out-of-court settlement from L-Bar fertilizer company after seeing his red-clover crop mysteriously wilt. He refused to discuss terms of the settlement with reporters, but he had told other people it was substantial.

In Gore, Oklahoma, a uranium-processing plant is getting rid of low-level radioactive waste by licensing it as a liquid fertilizer and spraying it over 9,000 acres of grazing land (with 2-nosed cows, 9-legged frogs, and very high rates of cancer and birth defects occurring in the vicinity).

In Quincy, WA, to dispose of a 54-foot long concrete pond full of toxic waste, the Cenex fertilizer company struck a deal with lessee farmer Larry Schaapman. He was paid more than \$10,000 to let Cenex put the material, which the company claimed had fertilizer value, on his 100 acres. It killed the land. The corn crop failed there in 1990, even though Schaapman and Cenex applied extra water to

area for three generations, is now broke due to the use of toxic fertilizers. Her father-in-law, a farmer for 50 years, lost a \$1 million potato crop. Her husband and their two children, aged 7 and 14, have all developed respiratory problems that she believes are related to fertilizer products.



Farms Destroyed

The industries that are benefiting financially from recycled waste are claiming that there are no known risks in the use of toxic waste in fertilizer. However, farmers, land has been destroyed, livestock has been dying of cancer, and the health of the farmers themselves has been damaged by recycled waste. After determining that these problems coincided with the application of these fertilizers, some farmers have begun to protest the devastation of their lives and livelihoods.

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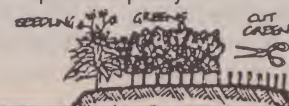
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- Some plants take up more or less of certain chemicals from the ground than others.
- When the plants are eaten by animals, the toxins build up and multiply in their tissues. It's the animals at the top of the food chain (such as predatory animals and meat- and dairy-eating humans) that receive the heaviest doses of toxins.

There has been very little coverage of this issue in the mainstream press, possibly because of the new "Food Slander" laws in 13 states, which warn that anyone saying bad things about agribusiness is likely to be sued (e.g., Oprah Winfrey is being sued by Texas cattle business for her show about mad-cow disease).

But the one major article, which appeared July 3 in the Seattle Times, apparently did have an effect. On August 7th regulators from states all over the US convened to discuss the labeling of fertilizers. A panel of regulators and fertilizer executives was appointed to come up with a policy on labeling, and it was



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NO WAY!



announced that it would be proposed in six weeks. One thing that is not known is whether there will be actual testing, which would be difficult and expensive, especially since the toxic "products" are variable in nature.

Some Anti-toxics Organizations

The Pure Food Campaign
860 Highway 61
Little Marais, MN 55614

Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste
150 S. Washington, Suite 300
P.O. Box 6806
Falls Church, VA 22040

Pesticide Action Network
<http://www.igc.apc.org/panna/others.html>

PRIVATE PRISON INDUSTRY EXPLODES

continued from page 1

will use private prisons to store parole violators, women and geriatric inmates, and inmates with AIDS. A bill sponsored by Rep. Polanco which passed the California Senate and is pending in the House would require state officials to develop a plan by 1999 to place half of the state's 10,000 women inmates into privately run facilities.

In Texas, which hosts one quarter of all private prisons beds and is the leader in prison privatization, private prisons get the "best of the best" of the state's prison population, according to Allan Polunsky, who is chairman of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice which oversees prisons in Texas. "I truthfully feel that it has not been an economic bonanza as suggested by the companies doing business with our state" notes Polunsky.

A 1996 General Accounting Office study found that existing studies were too flawed to allow it to determine whether or not privatization saved money. But the GAO noted that a 1995 Tennessee study, the most sound of the reports it examined, showed that a private prison run by CCA was slightly more expensive per inmate per day than comparable public prisons. (\$33.78 per inmate per day for CCA vs. \$33.18 for the state prison.)

In New Mexico, CCA is charging the state \$95 per inmate per day for holding women inmates, which is about double what the state pays for overflow space in county jails. New Mexico pays about \$60 per inmate per day in its own women's facilities. The state maintains that CCA has overcharged about \$2 million over the last 8 years it has run the Grant women's prison there.

Private Prison Speculation

The main reason the private prison industry is booming is that private corporations build prison capacity on speculation using private money. State governments, who can't keep up with rising prison numbers caused by the War on Drugs and mandatory sentence laws are desperate for more space. And private prison

a rise in violence, gangs and property crimes. The War on Drugs has attacked the supply of drugs, dramatically increasing the price and making the drug war the government's largest crop subsidy program. With drugs in high demand, turf wars claim lives and drug users can't pay for their drugs with legal means. Until the War on Drugs is replaced with harm reduction policies or otherwise modified, the demand for an ever increasing number of prison beds will continue, and private prisons will continue to flourish.

Other causes of the imprisonment boom, and the rise of private prisons, are mandatory sentencing laws, the abolition of parole on the Federal level and in most state systems, including California, and Three Strikes laws. All of these policies, intended to "get tough on crime", have lengthened sentences and taken away judicial and correctional discretion in how long inmates stay in prison. This has led to an aging of the prison population. Inmates who might have received lighter sentences because of their age or who might have been paroled when they grew elderly or infirm are now held in prisons.

The Private Prison Lobby

There is no clear evidence so far that private prison companies have had a hand in lobbying for stricter sentencing policies or harsher drug laws which expand prison populations and therefore economically benefit private prison corporations. But it is only a matter of time. It is clear that private prison firms have spent a lot of money on lobbyists in every state in which they have been successful. In Tennessee, which is considering hiring a private prison company to own the entire state prison system, CCA helped write the legislation for the hand-over.

Texas, the king of prison privatization, has seen the largest scandals associated with private prison corporation corruption, influence peddling and payoffs. In January, 1996, Andy Collins, the executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice left the Department and immediately went into

in Brazoria County, Texas. In addition to the beatings depicted in Brazoria County, there have been beatings or other human rights violations of inmates at private prisons in Youngstown, Ohio, Holdenvill, Oklahoma and Eagle Mountain, California.

Evidence is mounting that private prison corporations hire supervisory staff and guards who were known rights violators at public prisons. The president of CCA, David Myers, was accused of encouraging guards to assault inmates when he worked as a state prison warden in Texas prior to joining CCA. Guards

investment capital to build more prisons. The REIT, CCA Prison Realty Trust, sold stock on Wall Street to get money to buy an initial 9 facilities from CCA. CCA will operate the facilities and pay rent to the REIT. The sale price for the 9 facilities, \$308.1 million, is money CCA can now use for speculation on more prisons, like the \$100 million facility planned for California. Whenever CCA finishes building another prison, the REIT will buy it, giving the cash back to CCA for more expansion.

Wall street likes the REIT concept: the stock, sold in a private issue at \$21 per share, opened on the New York Stock Exchange at \$30 on July 15. Everyone who bought at the



under his command raided a rioting cellblock and then beat, subdued, and handcuffed inmates with riot batons.

Two other Texas prison officials who were punished for brutality against inmates now work as wardens of CCA private prisons in

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Private Prison Speculation

The main reason the private prison industry is booming is that private corporations build prison capacity on speculation using private money. State governments, who can't keep up with rising prison numbers caused by the War on Drugs and mandatory sentence laws are desperate for more space. And private prison construction doesn't require a prison bond measure to win an election. California voters have defeated prison construction bonds in the last three elections. Nor do legislators have to vote to build more prisons. The California legislature refused to budget any money for prison construction this year, despite the fact that the Department of Corrections predicts it will run out of prison space by the year 2000 and a prison takes at least 3 years to build. California now spends \$3.8 billion on its prison system.

After 20 years of massive growth in prison populations, voters are turning down more prison construction in state after state. Despite the fact that much of the public continues to be motivated by "tough on crime" hysteria, they don't want their taxes to go up or services to go down. Private prison speculation allows continued spiraling imprisonment rates without a public debate about what crimes society really thinks should be punished by imprisonment.

For example, San Bernadino is considering contracting with a private prison corporation to replace its aging juvenile hall. San Bernadino has already allocated all of its available debt funding for the next 30 years for hospital construction and can't afford the \$100 million required to replace the 1950s era juvenile facility. Private corporations have approached

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Texas, the king of prison privatization, has seen the largest scandals associated with private prison corporation corruption, influence peddling and payoffs. In January, 1996, Andy Collins, the executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice left the Department and immediately went into business working with its former suppliers. After a business associate of Collins was arrested for attempting to sell freedom to a Texas prison inmate for \$750,000, information about numerous contracts the TDCJ had made with companies owned by Collins came to light.

In Louisiana, the East Carroll Parish Sheriff resigned on August 28 and pleaded guilty to federal charges, admitting that he had accepted \$340,000 in bribes from a private prison firm there.

The biggest danger private prison corporations pose to democratic control is their ability to use the vast resources generated from private imprisonment in the political process. All the private prison corporations have a direct financial interest in enlarging the police state, passing new and harsher laws, and locking up an ever greater proportion of the population.

Interestingly enough, one of the few vocal critics of private prison corporations have been prison guards unions. This is ironic because in the past, the prison guards' unions have supported policies that increase imprisonment and therefore benefit their membership. But one of the ways private prison corporations cut costs is by hiring non-union, minimally-paid labor—undercutting the unions' strength. California unionized prison guards, members



under his command raided a rioting cellblock and then beat, subdued, and handcuffed inmates with riot batons.

Two other Texas prison officials who were punished for brutality against inmates now work as wardens of CCA private prisons in Texas. Sanders E. Estes, a warden at CCA's Venus correctional facility, punched and kicked an inmate in an office while he was a captain at the state's Ellis Unit. Joe Driskell, a warden at CCA's Liberty County correctional facility, beat an inmate who had forged his name on a commissary slip when he was an assistant warden at Texas' Eastham Unit.

And two guards accused of abuses at the Brazoria County Detention Center, Wilton Wallace and Daryl French, were fired and pleaded guilty to federal crimes relating to prisoner abuse in public Texas prisons in the 1980s.

With private prisons freer from public scrutiny than public prisons, which are hardly open to the press, the potential for inmate abuse and human rights violations are immense. And the profit motive encourages less training for guards and lowers standards in hiring and background checks.

Private Prisons = Big Profits

Private prison corporations have been phenomenally successful because of the boom in private prison construction. Almost 20 private corporations own or manage 120 private prisons in 26 states and Puerto Rico.

CCA, the industry leader, has 50 prisons in 18 states. It took in \$292 million dollars in 1996 and will take in much more this year. Its stock price has more than doubled since

initial private issue price made an instant \$9 per share profit.

Wackenhut is also considering starting a REIT. Investment devices such as REITs will allow the rapid growth private prison corporations are betting on. With such strong economic incentives to continue the spiraling private prison boom, and with most politicians still unable to discuss, much less enact, criminal justice reforms such as harm reduction to replace the war on drugs, the future looks bleak and private prisons look like they're here to stay.

How weird can it get?

The private prison craze may be getting a NAFTA twist. Officials in the California Board of Prison Terms have announced a plan to build a privately run prison in Mexico to hold undocumented Mexican immigrants arrested in California. The proposed prison would be a maquiladora using slave prisoner labor. James Nielsen, chairman of the Board of Prison terms and the main supporter of the idea, would like to see the prison contain a factory modeled after California's Prison Industries Authority. "It would be built as an industrial enterprise that derived income." Nielson envisions that the products would only be sold in Mexico and abroad.

"It lets individuals go to their homeland to serve out their sentences at a great costs savings, and justice prevails" according to Don Novey, president of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association. The proposal envisions a prison capable of holding 2,000 to 4,000 inmates. The Board of Prison Terms has spent \$17,000 on a study of the idea and

vote to build more prisons. The California legislature refused to budget any money for prison construction this year, despite the fact that the Department of Corrections predicts it will run out of prison space by the year 2000 and a prison takes at least 3 years to build. California now spends \$3.8 billion on its prison system.

After 20 years of massive growth in prison populations, voters are turning down more prison construction in state after state. Despite the fact that much of the public continues to be motivated by "tough on crime" hysteria, they don't want their taxes to go up or services to go down. Private prison speculation allows continued spiraling imprisonment rates without a public debate about what crimes society really thinks should be punished by imprisonment.

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Prison Boom

The rise of private prisons is a natural outgrowth of the United States' insane prison policies over the last 20 years. The number of federal, state and local prisoners in the U.S. has tripled since 1980 and now stands at more than 1.7 million people. In California in 1980, there were 23,511 inmates in State prisons. By 1997, it was over 152,000, a more than 6 fold increase. Government prison construction has boomed, but has been unable to keep up with "demand" for prison space, even given the tens of billions of dollars spent.

An estimated 25 percent of the prison population, 425,000 nationally or about 38,000 people in California, are in for drug offenses. Many other inmates who make up today's record prison populations are in for offenses related to the War on Drugs, which has caused

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Ultimately, prison guards' unions and private prison corporations may combine their efforts when they realize they have a common interest in increasing imprisonment. Both have considerable political influence and lots of money to spread around. In Tennessee, for example, CCA came to an agreement with the state AFL-CIO to allow collective bargaining for future private prison guard employees if the state privatizes its prisons. CCA therefore muted a significant critic of its plans.

Civil Rights Violations

National attention focused on the human rights standards maintained by private prison corporations after a videotape surfaced in August showing inmates being beaten, kicked and bitten by dogs at a privately run county jail

at CCA's Liberty County Correctional facility, beat an inmate who had forged his name on a commissary slip when he was an assistant warden at Texas' Eastham Unit.

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CCA, the industry leader, has 50 prisons in 18 states. It took in \$292 million dollars in 1996 and will take in much more this year. Its stock price has more than doubled since March and now stands at about \$40 per share, up from \$4 per share in 1994. The stock is trading at a premium of more than 50 times last year's earnings, a ratio usually only obtained by the hottest high tech companies.

Wackenhut Corrections Corp. manages 37 prisons in North America, Europe and Australia with a total of more than 27,000 beds. It had revenue of \$137.8 million in 1996. It went public at \$4.50 in 1984 and now trades at \$30 per share after reaching a high of \$45 in 1996. Investors in CCA and Wackenhut are getting rich on the imprisonment of others.

The strong market positions of CCA, Wackenhut and other private prison companies are allowing them to plan for rapid future development. Experts expect that private prison corporations will add prison beds at a 35 percent annual rate of growth, 7 times the rate of publicly run prisons. By 2001, there could be almost 300,000 private prison beds in the U.S. alone.

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As of 1996, 19,000 Mexican nationals were imprisoned in California at a cost of \$466 million per year. The number is expected to double by 2010 according to the Department of Corrections. The private prison factory idea gets rid of immigrants and yet still reaps the benefits of their labor, all while increasing the power of California's criminal justice system.

There is another way

The rise of the private prison industry threatens to further erode public participation and grease the wheels of the imprisonment machine, making it easier to imprison a higher and higher portion of the population. Private prisons are worse for inmates, worse for employees, and don't even save government money. And while you've read this article, an additional private prison bed has come on line.

Continued on page 19

Private prison industry explodes

Continued from page 18

Most of the private prison space is being built for people who shouldn't even be in prison: AIDS patients, the elderly, non-violent, victimless criminals, drug offenders, parole violators.

The best way to fight private prisons is to fight the policies that are increasingly creating an enslaved, prison subclass. The War on Drugs and other over simplistic "get tough on crime" measures like Three Strikes need to be fought and overcome. There are viable alternatives to imprisonment for many non-violent, victimless offenders who are now sentenced to prison. Public pressure is the

only way to turn the prison boom around and prevent the further expansion of private prison corporations.

For more information, contact the following organizations which favor criminal justice reform. Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM) 1612 K Street NW #1400, Washington, DC 20006, 202-823-6700. The National Prison Project, 1875 Connecticut Avenue NW #410, Washington, DC 20009, 202-234-4830. National Drug Policy Foundation, 4455 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Ste. B-500, Washington, DC 20008. (202) 537-5005.



Cassini Probe: NASA bets the farm



Continued from page 3

in the 50 years following the disaster, and that this would be "statistically indistinguishable from normally observed cancer fatalities among the world population."

"For them to pontificate and say things like the odds are 1 in a billion is the height of scientific arrogance," said Dr. Michio Kaku, a professor of theoretical physics at the City University of New York. NASA is basing its figures on a single-event failure, but in the real world when accidents happen, many things go wrong in quick succession, Kaku said. In reality, things shake, things get hot, and things break apart all at once.

NASA used the same reasoning to calculate the dangers of the Cassini mission that it used in saying the space shuttle had a 1 and 100,000 chance for solid rocket failure, Kaku

accidents, as well as six out of the 39 Russian missions.

Turning outer space into a nuclear dump is only one of the many reasons to be concerned about the Cassini rocket launch. In an Aviation Week and Space Technology article in August 1996, Gen. J.W. Ashy, commander-in-chief of the unified Space Command said, "it's politically sensitive, but it's going to happen. Some people don't want hear this, and it sure isn't in vogue, but - absolutely - we're going to fight in space, we're going to fight from space and we're going to fight into space when orbital assets become so precious that it's in our national interest" to do so, he said.

Cassini is just one in a whole series of launches planned by NASA to ensure the miniaturization, and US domination of space.

5th Avenue community resists Port of Oakland land grab

Continued from page 1

members, members of the community advisory committee, and grass-roots activists from other neighborhoods, making sure it had someone present at every public agency meeting that might have something to do with the future of their neighborhood. The East Bay Express ran a sympathetic, if somewhat rambling and romanticized feature article on the street and its denizens. Maybe the Port and its planners thought the neighborhood would be an easy mark because it looks kind of run down—there are no streetlights or sidewalks, and some of the buildings lean noticeably, but in mid-May they got a big surprise—a dozen neighborhood activists showed up at a workshop for the Citizen Advisory Committee and presented an eighty page document detailing their own vision for the area. Port officials were dumbfounded. The group had done its homework, and advisory committee members overwhelmingly supported the neighborhood's right to exist. Either feeling the heat, or else just seeing reason, the Port and its planners went back to the drawing board and in August presented a new proposal that not only preserved the neighborhood but made it the pattern for future development in the area.

The Expo

But Fifth Avenue isn't safe yet. Stalking the planning process all along has been a pie in the sky scheme to bring an international exposition to Oakland for the millenium. And what have the con-men hustling this bill of goods identified as the preferred site for this turkey? You guessed it. Nevermind that the land involved was private property and not for sale, or that forty-odd trains a day roll through the area, sometimes blocking street access for up to fifteen minutes at a time, or that the event probably will not receive the sanction of the Bureau of International

the "expo" promoters, and much more so than the City council, even though they both approved the joint financing of a \$162,000 feasibility study. Given the weakness of the promoters' proposal, (both San Francisco and Sacramento have turned them down already) it is possible that the Port never had any real interest or confidence in the expo proposal but was cynically using it to speed authorization for a land grab. Although the Port now seems to favor leaving the Fifth Ave. community in place and the promoters say they now favor the soon to be vacant Oakland Army Base (putting them in conflict with West Oakland activists with other plans for the site) the Fifth Ave. neighbors have produced (for about \$500 in printing costs) an inch thick "Infeasability Study" and distributed it to the City Council, the Port Commissioners, and the news media. Keep your eyes on this one. In the words of one time city council candidate, perennial gadfly, and Oakland high school teacher Hugh Bassette, "If it looks like an ice rink and walks like an ice rink..."

Port of Oakland

The core of the 5th Avenue neighborhood is some of the last privately held land on Oakland's waterfront. While it is not the intention of this writer to praise landlords, it is clear that so far in this area the singular vision of the two private landowners has fostered a spontaneous, creative and accessible environment, while all the Port of Oakland has been able to manage is dreary commercial tracts, locked down piers and the half empty and all plastic retail strip at Jack London Square.

The Port of Oakland derives its powers from both the city charter and state law. Though technically a city department, it functions as an autonomous government-within-a-government with just about total control of

NASA bets the farm

Continued from page 3

in the 50 years following the disaster, and that this would be "statistically indistinguishable from normally observed cancer fatalities among the world population."

"For them to pontificate and say things like the odds are 1 in a billion is the height of scientific arrogance," said Dr. Michio Kaku, a professor of theoretical physics at the City University of New York. NASA is basing its figures on a single-event failure, but in the real world when accidents happen, many things go wrong in quick succession, Kaku said. In reality, things shake, things get hot, and things break apart all at once.

NASA used the same reasoning to calculate the dangers of the Cassini mission that it used in saying the space shuttle had a 1 and 100,000 chance for solid rocket failure, Kaku said. After the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded, NASA recalculated the risk to 1 in 72.

It is important to remember that this is not the first launch of nuclear material into space. The recent ill-fated Russian Mars Probe that fell into the Andean foothills in December 1996 was also carrying about 9.5 ounces of plutonium-238. The Titan IV rocket that will carry Cassini that exploded in the past as well. In August 1993 a Titan IV exploded over the Pacific Ocean, destroying its payload containing a \$1 billion US spy satellite system. Three of the 24 known US space mission involving nuclear power have met with

accidents, as well as six out of the 39 Russian missions.

Turning outer space into a nuclear dump is only one of the many reasons to be concerned about the Cassini rocket launch. In an Aviation Week and Space Technology article in August 1996, Gen. J.W. Ashy, commander-in-chief of the unified Space Command said, "it's politically sensitive, but it's going to happen. Some people don't want hear this, and it sure isn't in vogue, but - absolutely - we're going to fight in space, we're going to fight from space and we're going to fight into space when orbital assets become so precious that it's in our national interest" to do so, he said.

Cassini is just one in a whole series of launches planned by NASA to ensure the miniaturization, and US domination of space. Many of us don't question this as an okay thing to do - we've been trained for many years to accept weapons of destruction by video games such as Asteroids and Space Invaders, where winning means killing things, in, from and into space.

The Northern California Stop Cassini Coalition is planning a demonstration on September 28th. For more information contact Elliot at 510/527-4055 or Winston at 707/772-5264. To get find out what is happening at Cape Canaveral as October 6th approaches contact the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, P.O. Box 90035, Gainesville, FL 32607. Phone: 352-468-3295.

Letters to Slingshot

Continued from page 2

antenna should give us 20 watts, but mostly we get only 10, which gives us a broadcast radius of about 5 miles. We have news, public affairs, and music programming in five languages.

The difference between us and other "pirates" is that we are doing our best to involve everyone in the neighborhood, and we are broadcasting from right out in the open, figuratively and literally. Our regular home is in a gallery space in the "Allston Mall," which is a collection of interesting small businesses a vintage clothes shop, a movie store, (formerly a cool record

host the Grrrly Show, which is by, about, and for the women who rock Boston. If anyone wants to write to me, or send me stuff to play, my address is: P.O. Box 2061, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. I am also the new webmaster of our old site, which is here: <http://www.tiac.net/users/error/radiofreeallston/> although it may be moving, so you might have to search for it again.

Also, there is a fight going on in Cambridge, where they are trying to tear down a whole block of small businesses, including the Lucy Parsons Bookstore, and build, of all things, a huge

The group had done its homework, and advisory committee members overwhelmingly supported the neighborhood's right to exist. Either feeling the heat, or else just seeing reason, the Port and its planners went back to the drawing board and in August presented a new proposal that not only preserved the neighborhood but made it the pattern for future development in the area.

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But Fifth Avenue isn't safe yet. Stalking the planning process all along has been a pie in the sky scheme to bring an international exposition to Oakland for the millenium. And what have the con-men hustling this bill of goods identified as the preferred site for this turkey? You guessed it. Nevermind that the land involved was private property and not for sale, or that forty-odd trains a day roll through the area, sometimes blocking street access for up to fifteen minutes at a time, or that the event probably will not receive the sanction of the Bureau of International Expositions, making it little more than a trade fare.

The relationship between the "expo" and the planning effort is complex and suspicious. The Port's first draft for the area called for a huge tract of open space, supposedly for a public park and "civic celebration space", but revealed deep in the fine print as a potential site for condos or a corporate campus. The "expo" was touted as a once in a lifetime, gotta act now deal for the city and a way to get some of the infrastructure installed for the supposed "open space". The Port hoped that enthusiasm for the "expo" would speed the approval of their plan before it could be examined too closely; approval of the plan would have provided the legal and political grounds for taking the land from its owners by condemnation or eminent domain. The Port directors, mostly from the business community and "permanent government" of Oakland have been very cagey in their actual dealings with

newspaper reporters, city council candidates, words of one time city council candidate, perennial gadfly, and Oakland high school teacher Hugh Bassette, "If it looks like an ice rink and walks like an ice rink..."

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The Port of Oakland derives its powers from both the city charter and state law. Though technically a city department, it functions as an autonomous government-within-a-government with just about total control of Oakland's waterfront and airport, including all permitting and zoning authority and the powers of condemnation and eminent domain. Its accountability to the city government and the people of Oakland is limited and indirect—its directors are appointed by the mayor and approved by the City Council, and outside of presenting its budget to the council in June of each year there is no formal review of its policies or activities.



POINTS OF INTEREST ON THE ROAD TO RUIN

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When the revolution comes



U.S. Out of North America

FREEDOM MACHINE

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The difference between us and other "pirates" is that we are doing our best to involve everyone in the neighborhood, and we are broadcasting from right out in the open, figuratively and literally. Our regular home is in a gallery space in the "Allston Mall," which is a collection of interesting small businesses - a vintage clothes shop, a movie store, (formerly a cool record store), a body piercing shop, and now us.

Every once in a while, we take the show on the road. We've done mobile broadcasts from a Homes Not Jails building takeover, a fundraising bike ride for a youth mentoring program, and a festival called "Wake Up the Earth." At each one of these, we broadcast from a van with a huge Radio Free Allston banner on it, for maximum visibility. We have been written up in all the large and small newspapers in the area, and we were just featured on the evening news here in Boston. We have benefits for the station in the local clubs and our flyers are in all the record stores.

From what I've read of the stories of pirates who try to hide from the cops and the FCC, I like our strategy much better, although I probably wouldn't be so brave if I were in it all by myself. At least this way, when the FCC comes knocking (heads), we will all be in the fight together, along with the people of the community.

I hope this info is useful to potential pirates, and I am very excited about all the micropower stations popping up all over the country. They're starting so fast, no one can keep a complete list of them!

Here's a commercial for my show: I am known on-air as Tasty Aileen the Beauty Queen, and I

host the Grrrly Show, which is by, about, and for the women who rock Boston. If anyone wants to write to me, or send me stuff to play, my address is: P.O. Box 2061, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. I am also the new webmaster of our old site, which is here: <http://www.tiac.net/users/error/radiofreeallston/> although it may be moving, so you might have to search for it again.

Also, there is a fight going on in Cambridge, where they are trying to tear down a whole block of small businesses, including the Lucy Parsons Bookstore, and build, of all things, a huge apartment building and a GAP! Please read about this effort and support it in any way you can - their website is here: <http://www.worldmedia.com/madness/directtest/hnj4.htm> or you can call the Save Central Square committee organizers John Bekken at (617) 783-4328 or George Salzman at (617) 547-5033.

Peace, Stacey.

p.s. Do you have any of those Slingshot organizers left? Here it is July, and I could really use one.

Time for action

Greetings comrades of Long Haul,

I hope you are well and a continued spirit of struggle.

As for me, I am well and confident of the inevitability of our freedom and our nation's independence. Next year, July 25, 1998 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the imposition of U.S. colonial domination (of Puerto Rico). It is a time for action and concrete steps of international solidarity.

I would like to continue receiving your newspaper as well as news on our struggle.

In Struggle,
Edwin Cortés P.O.W.

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When the revolution comes ...
Will your bike be ready?



U.S. Out
of North America



Hi. I've got
my period
today.

FREEDOM MACHINE



An Art Cooperative

Freedom Machine Order Form

Write for a full catalog or return check to: Freedom Machine, PO Box 420442, San Francisco, CA 94142-0442. Add \$1/shirt postage.

T-shirt	Price	Quantity/Size/Color	Total
Bike (recycled shirt; pick a color)	\$ 1 0	_____	\$ _____
US Out (green or blue)	\$ 1 4	_____	\$ _____
Period (recycled shirt; pick a color)	\$ 1 0	_____	\$ _____
Riot (recycled shirt; pick a color)	\$ 1 0	_____	\$ _____

San Francisco Critical Mass

Friday, Sep 26 5:30 pm
Last Friday every month,
Embarcadero BART

Protest Cassini

Sunday, Sep 28 11:30 am
Justin Herman Plaza (Market &
Embarcadero) SF, (510) 527-4055

Cancer Industry Tour

Wednesday, Oct 1, 12 noon
Stop cancer where it starts, Chevron
Station, 555 Market Street, SF (near 1st
and Montgomery BART) (510) 548-9286

Unfree Trade Tour

Sunday, October 5 7 pm
Report by Spanish anarchists on the
struggle against corporate domination in
Europe, Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck
Berkeley, (510) 540-0751

Save Headwaters

Monday October 6
Street Theater and direct action, Eureka
(707) 468-1660

East Bay Critical Mass

Friday, Oct. 10 5:30 pm
2nd Friday every month, Berkeley Bart

Immigrant Pride Day

Día de la Raza
Indigenous Peoples' Day
Sunday, Oct 12 10-7
100 Musicians and Performers, Free
Health Fair, Free Admission, 24th
Street and Mission SF, (415) 648-5257

Building the Movement

October 17-19
4th Annual Antifascist Conference.
Hosted by Anti-Racist Action (ARA)
North High School, 100 E. Arcadia Ave.,
Columbus, OH, (614) 424-9074

National Day of Protest to Stop Police Brutality

Wednesday, Oct 22 2 pm
24th and Mission SF, (510) 464-4563

Free Leonard Peltier!

Rally for Clemency
Sunday, Nov. 16 2-6 pm, Horace Mann
Middle School, 3351 23rd Street
(Mission) (415) 821-6545

World AIDS Day

Support Needle Exchange
Monday, Dec 1 5 pm
Oakland Federal Building, 1301 Clay St,
(510) 568-1680